# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I – Questions and Answers)

VOLUME IV, 1954

(23rd Aug. – 24th Sept. 1954)

सत्यमेव जयते

SEVENTH SESSION

1954

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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Date: 01.12.2014





# LOK SABHA

*Saturday, 11th September, 1954*

*The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### CORRUPTION CASES

*772. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state the number of cases in the Punjab and Pepsu, of offering of bribes to or of taking of bribes by Central Government servants, or on the charge of aiding and abetting these offences, after the latest amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act came into operation?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** Seven cases of bribery etc., relating to the States of Punjab and P.E.P.S.U. were registered by the Special Police Establishment during the period from the 12th August, 1952, the date on which the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 1952, came into force, upto the 15th August, 1954.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know what the nature of these cases is?

**Shri Datar:** They related to the acceptance of illegal gratification.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know against how many cases action has been taken, how many cases are pending and how many have been dismissed?

**Shri Datar:** Action was initiated in all the seven cases. Three are still under investigation. Two have been referred for departmental action. One has ended in conviction and one is pending trial by a court martial.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know what the nature of departmental action is and what departmental action has been taken in these two cases?

**Shri Datar:** That itself is under consideration. There are varieties of punishment under departmental action from dismissal to reduction of rank.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Was there a case out of these in which it was found that the Government servant had amassed wealth beyond what he could be expected to get during his service?

**Shri Datar:** It is not possible for me to say anything so far as the details before me are concerned.

### ORDNANCE ESTABLISHMENTS

*773. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of civilian employees of the Ordnance Establishment of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force has now been reduced to about one-fourth of what it was during the Second World War;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the estimated number of personnel so retrenched since the war time who have been subsequently absorbed on a permanent or temporary basis till the 1st June, 1954?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* **Appendix IV, annexure No. 59.**]

(c) 5,793.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether Government have any scheme for the rehabilitation of these erstwhile civilian employees of the Ordnance Establishment, and if so, how many of such employees do Government propose to rehabilitate in the course of this year?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** There is no scheme of rehabilitation as such. The retrenched employees have to find employment through the employment exchanges. Every effort is, however, made at the time of retrenchment to see if they can be absorbed in alternative jobs.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In answer to part (c) of my question, the hon. Minister gave the number as 5,000 odd. Could I know whether this number represents the number of people who are actually rehabilitated or the number of people thrown out of employment?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** 5,793 people have been given alternative jobs.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In my question I had asked for the estimated number of personnel so retrenched and no answer has been given to it. Could I know what estimates Government have in regard to the number of persons so retrenched since the termination of hostilities?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The hon. Member asked for information about the absorption of retrenched personnel since the termination of the war. After the Independence and Partition, the total employment figures are not comparable with pre-war figures.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** That is not the point...

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us go to the next question.

## हिन्दी पुस्तकें

*७७४. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या शिक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि हिन्दी परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने वाले सरकारी कर्मचारी हिन्दी में अनुराग बढ़ाते रहें इस उद्देश्य से क्या केन्द्रीय सचिवालय पुस्तकालय में सरल एवं रोचक हिन्दी पुस्तकें चुनकर संग्रहीत की गयी हैं, और यदि हां, तो ऐसी कितनी पुस्तकें हैं ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** The Central Secretariat Library does not stock such books but such books are available in the Central Educational Library. The total number of such books in the Central Educational Library is about 9,000

I may add that in addition to these 9,000 books, there are 700 children's books in Hindi.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या ये किताबें हर साल मंगाई जा रही हैं और अगर हर साल मंगाई जा रही हैं तो कितनी मंगाई जा रही हैं ?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The number of new books purchased every year is as follows. In the year 1952-53, the Hindi section has purchased 1,350 books and this year we have purchased 1,210 books.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** जो यह नई पुस्तकें मंगाई जाती हैं उनके लिये सिफारिश कौन करता है ? क्या कोई कमेटी ऐसे विशेषज्ञों की है जो इस के लिये सिफारिश करती है और वही किताबें मंगाई जाती हैं ?

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شیکشا و پراکرتک سنسادھن تتھا ویگیانک گویشنا منتری ( مولانا آزاد ) - سفارش کی ضرورت نہیں - اس لئے کہ منسٹری کا جو ہندی سیکشن ہے وہی ان تمام کاموں کو انجام دیتا ہے -

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**[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** There is no need of recommendation, because the Hindi section of the Ministry deals with it.]

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Do the words "interesting Hindi books" include novels, particularly Hindi *bhashantars* of eminent novelists like Bankim Chandra Chatterji and Sarat Chandra Chatterji?

**Shri Syed Ahmed:** And Seth Govind Das?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is very irregular on the part of the hon. Member to carry on a talk in that manner.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I have not followed the answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has not yet given the answer.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The Central Educational Library is meant for those people who want light reading and no books upon serious subjects are contained in this Library. Hindi translations of eminent novels in other regional langauges are also kept.

**सरदार ए० एस० सहगल :** अभी मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया कि सैंट्रल सेक्रेटेरियट की लायब्रेरी में ये किताबें नहीं हैं बल्कि सैंट्रल एज्यूकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की लायब्रेरी में हैं । क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि इन पुस्तकों को सैंट्रल सेक्रेटेरियट की लायब्रेरी में रखने का प्रयत्न किया जायगा ताकि वहां के जो लोग हैं वे भी उनको पढ़ सकें ?

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مولانا آزاد : نہیں اس لئے کہ سیکریٹیریٹ کی جو لائبریری ہے اس میں کتابیں اس طرح کی نہیں رکھی جاتیں جو کم پڑھے ہوئے آدمیوں کے لئے کام دیں- اس میں اونچے درجہ کی کتابیں رکھی جاتی ہیں -

**[Maulana Azad:** The books in the Secretariat Library are not meant for the use of neo-literates. The books placed there are of a high standard.]

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

***776. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Public Service Commission has drawn the attention of Government to the time-lag between the selection of candidates by the Commission and the offering of appointment to them by Government;

(b) whether as a result of this delay a considerable number of successful candidates has to pass through the travail of second examination; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy this state of affairs?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Yes.

(b) The competitive examinations for the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and the Central Services Class I commence in September every year. The results of the examination for the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Foreign Service are generally announced by the Union Public Service Commission in February or March of the succeeding year and the successful candidates are normally appointed to these Services sometime in April, that is, long before the next competitive examination is due to be held again in September. The results for the Indian Police Service and the Central Services are, however, not available from the Commission till much later. They were in fact not received till May or early June during the last three years. This gives only about three or four months time before the next competitive examination is due to be held in September. During this period a number of essential preliminaries have to be completed. The indentity and antecedents of the candidates have to be checked by detailed enquiry, medical examination arranged and their results obtained. The work of allotment of the successful candidates to the various Services is taken up thereafter. The results of

the Indian Police Service and the Central Services Class I are published separately, though a large number of names are common to both the lists. Allotments to these Services have, therefore, also to be made separately. Allotments are first made to the Indian Police Service in consultation with the State Governments, and it is only when these allotments are completed and it is known how many of the successful candidates whose names also appear in the list for the Central Services are actually allotted to the Indian Police Service, that the work of allotment to the former Services (Central Services) can be taken up. As these preliminaries take time, appointments to these Services cannot generally be made until after the next examination commences in September.

(c) To avoid the need for successful candidates to take the next examination again, the practice has been adopted from this year to inform the successful candidates upto the total number of vacancies available for the Indian Police Service and the Central Services Class I that they would be offered appointments to one or other of the Services provided they are found medically fit, and that if they accept such appointments, they would not be considered for any other Service, even though if they should happen to qualify in a subsequent examination. Though the particular service to which a candidate would be appointed cannot at that stage be anticipated, nor can the results of the medical examination be foretold, this intimation gives sufficient notice to the successful candidates to enable them to refrain from appearing at the next competitive examination.

The Union Public Service Commission is also being asked to expedite notification of results.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know the number of successful candidates who had again to appear for the examination due to the lag mentioned by the U.P.S.C.?

**Shri Datar:** The number is not very large, but I have not got the exact figure.

**Shri Dabhi:** How many of these successful candidates who had again to appear in the examination have now been appointed?

**Shri Datar:** I shall make enquiries

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether the Government will assure us that once the candidates are selected they will be appointed?

**Shri Datar:** A general assurance is not possible. They will be appointed as far as possible, but after a certain period that list of selection itself lapses.

**Several Hon. Members** *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question. The hon. Minister has already given a very lengthy statement and members will have to consider it before putting further supplementaries.

SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM

*777. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team of four foreign and four Indian educationists who had been deputed to make a detailed and comparative study of Secondary Education system in India, Europe and the U.S.A., has submitted its report: and

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of the Team have been accepted by Government?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Report forms part of the data on the basis of which proposals for the reconstruction of secondary education have been and are being worked out.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know the names of countries which the team visited and the time taken?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Denmark—4 weeks, United Kingdom—4 weeks and United States of America—8 weeks.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know the date when the report was submitted to Government?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The exact date is not with me

**श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि राज्य सरकारों ने सेकेन्ड्री एज्केशन सिस्टम के ऊपर जो जांच करवाई हैं और रिपोर्ट्स बनाई हैं उन पर भी इस टीम की रिपोर्ट के पेश्तर सरकार गौर करेगी ?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The main object of this team was to recommend measures for improving the quality of teachers and curriculum in the secondary schools. The report will be placed before the Central Advisory Board of Education at its next meeting early in 1955 and the recommendations of the Board will be placed before the Government for consideration.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** My question has not been followed by the Parliamentary Secretary. What I wanted to know from him was: some States have also conducted similar enquiries and their reports have been submitted to State Governments, and therefore, whether in connection with the report of this Team, these reports will also be considered so that there may be co-ordination?

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شکشا و پراکرتک سلسادھن تتھا

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ویگیانک گویشنا ملتری (مولانا آزاد) : ھاں ، اس سے پہلے اس سلسلہ میں جو انکوائری ھو چکی ھے اور جو رپورٹیں ھیں وہ سب کمیٹی کے سامنے ھیں -

**[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** Yes, all those enquiries that have been conducted in this connection before, and their reports, are before the Sub-Committee.]

DEFENCE SCIENCE SERVICE

***778. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1929 asked on the 20th April, 1954 and state the scope of activities of the Defence Science Service set up in the Ministry and the three Services?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** The Defence Sciene Service will provide a close integration of the scientific work in the different defence establishments, a more effective disposal and concentration of the available scientific effort and will help to meet new demands of the Defence Services in the scientific field.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know the specific subjects on which these researches will be conducted?

**Shri Tyagi:** These researches are being conducted on the new models, designs and development of weapons and other scientific equipments needed by our armed forces.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether civilian officers of the Directorate of Technical Establishments will also come under these Services?

**Shri Tyagi:** Yes; there is a scheme under consideration of the Government whereby it is proposed to co-ordinate the activities of the Department of Scientific Research and the Directorate of Technical Development.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether they have already started work on this research and if so, what are the places at which these researches are being conducted?

**Shri Tyagi:** Pure scientific research is being conducted here in Delhi in the Central Physical Laboratory, but experiments are made and technical designs and developments are observed and examined at various places wherever there are military installations.

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

***779. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been adopted by Government to protect and educate the neglected children and Juvenile delinquents in Part 'C' States; and

(b) the total amount provided for this?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) The Government have prepared a Children's Bill which provides for the care, protection, maintenance, welfare, training, education and rehabilitation of neglected children and juvenile delinquents in Part 'C' States.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 60,000 per annum has been estimated on the machinery for its implementation in each State.

I may add, Sir, that this Bill is pending before this House now.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know the total number of neglected children in Part C States?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** No census of that has been taken so far.

INCOME-TAX INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

***780. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government of India have examined the implications of the judgment of the Supreme Court declaring power under Section 5(4) of the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act as *ultra vires* of the Constitution?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** Yes, Sir.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know the number of cases that were pending on 28th May, 1954, under Section 5(4) when this law was declared *ultra vires*?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** 145.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Has the Government considered the position whether in these cases under Section 5(4) which were determined after 28th May, 1954, the amount realised is to be refunded or whether the Government agrees with the Constitutional Expert that if a law is declared invalid subsequently the amount need not be refunded?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** Refund is not to be granted. As the hon. Member is aware. Ordinance VIII of 1954 has been promulgated, legislation brought forward and under the Ordinance which in 250 cases has already been issued and about 44 assessees have come forward with settlement applications.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What is the number of cases under Section 5(1) just at present laid before the Commission?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** 489 cases are pending under Section 5(1) for disposal.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** What is the life of the Income Tax Investigation Commission and is there any proposal to extend its life?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** The life of the Commission is upto 31st December, 1955.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** I want to know whether there is any proposal to extend its life?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** That question does not arise at present, but we propose not to extend the life.

I.A.F. OFFICERS SENT ABROAD

***781. Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian Air Force Officers were sent abroad for special training during 1953-54;

(b) if so, what is their number and when they are likely to return; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on them so far?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** (a) Yes.

(b) 84. Out of these 55 have already returned to India and the remaining 29 will return after completing their training.

(c) This information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the House when it has been collected.

**Ch. Raghubir Singh:** May I know the names of countries to which they were sent?

**Shri Tyagi:** They are, U.K., U.S.A., Australia and France.

**Shri G. S. Singh:** May I know whether any of these officers failed to qualify in the courses of training for which they were sent?

**Shri Tyagi:** I have no exact information just now, but the recent reports that I have received from various centres of training in foreign countries go to show that our officers are faring very well and receiving their training with great efficiency.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** May I know what was the period of training for which they went to those countries?

**Shri Tyagi:** The period of training varies from trade to trade. There are certain technical subjects in which the officers are trained for a longer period and there are a few subjects in which only two/three months training is sufficient.

## समाज कल्याण विस्तार परियोजनायें

*७८२. **श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** क्या शिक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) समाज कल्याण बोर्ड द्वारा समाज कल्याण विस्तार परियोजनाओं के अधीन क्या-क्या काम किये जायेंगे;

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या-क्या काम हाथ में लिये जा चुके हैं; और

(ग) इस दिशा में कुल कितना रुपया व्यय किया जायेगा ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) The following work programme will be undertaken in the Welfare Extension Projects:

(i) Children's Welfare,

(ii) Women's Welfare,

(iii) Welfare of the Handicapped,

(iv) Welfare of Juvenile Delinquents.

(b) The progress reports from the work centres are awaited and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) About Rupees one crore over a period of two years, 1954-56, subject to actual needs.

**श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** सोशल वेलफेअर बोर्ड के अन्तर्गत.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Will he put the question in English so that he may not have to repeat it?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** I want to know whether in the centres which are opened in various States training is given to workers or organisers and if so how many workers have been trained?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** These projects will be managed by implementation committees. These project implementation Committees will be formed from the representatives of local welfare organisations.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** How will the selection be made for giving Government assistance, as contemplated in the answer given, to varicus States?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The Central Social Welfare Board has published several pamphlets giving all this information in detail. They are all to be found in our Library.

**Shrimati Sushama Sen:** May I know, Sir, how many institutions for neglected children and uncared for children has the Social Welfare Board contributed to, so far?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I have got a detailed list. It will take time to find out the answer to this question.

**Shri Matthen:** May I know whether any attempt is being made to look after the old and infirm people who have no means of sustenance?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I think the cases of the physically handicapped will be considered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question No. 785—Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** There is a similar question by me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Which is that?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** No. 809.

**Mr. Speaker:** Can the hon. Minister take that question also conveniently, along with this?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** Yes, Sir.

WORK FOR WOMEN

*785. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for providing work to women in their houses so as to augment their family income; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the Scheme?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) Yes.

(b) A Family Welfare Scheme has been launched in Delhi with the co-operation of the Government of India and the Central Social Welfare Board. The Scheme mainly aims at meeting the economic difficulties of the families concerned by providing opportunities to women to supplement their income. To implement the Scheme, a Co-operative Society of the beneficiaries themselves has been formed. The Society is erecting a Match Factory at the vacant site adjoining Motinagar near Najafgarh Road, Delhi. This Match Factory is expected to provide work to nearly 500 families of Motinagar, Rameshnagar, and West Patel Nagar areas.

दियासलाई कारखाना, नजफगढ़

*८०९. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या शिक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) समाज कल्याण बोर्ड के तत्वावधान में नजफगढ़ में जो दियासलाई बनाने का कारखाना खोला जा रहा है, उस के निर्माण में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है;

(ख) प्रस्तावित ५०० महिलाओं में से अब तक कितनी महिलायें काम में लगायी गयी हैं; और

(ग) कारखाना कब से काम शुरू कर देगा ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) One acre of land has been acquired from the Delhi Improvement Trust, New Delhi. The construction plans of the Match Factory have been prepared and approved. The C.P.W.D. has been requested to start construction of the building.

(b) No woman has been employed so far.

(c) As soon as the buildings are complete.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** May I know whether this scheme is confined only to this area or whether you have got similar schemes in other States also?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** This is an experimental enterprise, if I can say so. When we get the results of this enterprise, perhaps the launching of other schemes will be considered by the Government.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Is this scheme meant exclusively for women, or, is it meant for men also?

شکشا و پراکرتک سلسادھن تتھا ویگیانک گویشنا مانتری (مولانا آزاد) - صرف عورتوں کے لئے ہے -

**[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** It is only for women.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Only for women.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** I wanted to know what will be the total investment in this factory.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The total investment in this factory will be Rs. 3,10,000.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know whether the women who are going to be employed in this factory are to be given some training?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** As soon as the factory building is constructed, the work will begin. No work has begun yet, except constructing the factory.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** When is it likely to start?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The factory is likely to be completed within the next two months, and as soon as the factory building is completed, the work will begin.

UNTOUCHABILITY

*788. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government contemplate binding every Government employee by making him sign a pledge that he will not observe untouchability;

(b) how long it will take for this to come into effect; and

(c) whether any penalty has been prescribed for those who violate the conditions?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Untouchability has already been abolished and the practice of untouchability made an offence by Article 17 of the Constitution. Legislation is being promoted for prescribing punishment for the practice of untouchability. The law when enacted will apply equally to all citizens including Government servants. In view of these provisions, any citizen including a Government servant who practises untouchability commits an offence against the law of the land and can be dealt with accordingly. It is entirely superfluous to make Government servants sign a pledge that they will not commit an offence.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shri M. R. Krishna:** May I know whether it is a fact that in some of the Government departments, they still keep separate water-pots for the use of the Scheduled Castes?

**Shri Datar:** I am not aware of any such separate arrangements.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no use putting supplementary questions in this matter. A Bill was before the House.

**Shri Datar:** There is the Bill. It has just been referred to the Select Committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the Bill comes, there will be ample time to discuss.

**Shri M. R. Krishna:** The question relates to Government employees.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has explained that the Bill will apply to all, when it is passed. Next question.

## पाकिस्तान के युद्धपोत

*७८९. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर** : क्या रक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि १२ जून, १९५४ को दो पाकिस्तानी युद्धपोत बम्बई बन्दरगाह पर देखे गये थे ?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** Yes. Two Pakistan ships 'Sind' and 'Shamsher' *en route* to Chittagong from Karachi were in urgent need of repairs and came to Bombay Port on the 12th June, 1954. After repairs had been carried out, they left on the 16th of June.

**श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि इस तरह के जो दूसरे देशों के जहाज हैं उनको अपने बन्दरगाहों पर ठहराने के कोई नियम हैं ?

**श्री सतीश चन्द्र :** आम तौर पर यह कायदा है कि किसी भी मुल्क के जहाज अगर दूसरे देश के बन्दरगाह के पास हों और उनको मदद की जरूरत हो तो वे मदद ले सकते हैं ।

**श्री पी० एल० बारूपाल :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि हमारे भारतीय अधिकारियों से

पाकिस्तान के अधिकारियों ने कुछ सहायता की मांग की थी। यदि हां, तो उनको किस प्रकार की सहायता दी गई ?

**श्री सतीश चन्द्र :** कुछ जहाजों की मरम्मत हुई थी और उसके दाम उनसे मिल जायेंगे।

FORMATION OF ALL-INDIA BAR

*791. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Law** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 214 asked on the 23rd November, 1953 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the recommendations of the All-India Bar Committee for the formation of an All-India Bar; and

(b) if so, when a Bill in this regard will be introduced?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** (a) No. Necessary action will be taken when replies have been received from all State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** In answer to a question in November, 1953, the hon. Law Minister replied that the State Governments' replies were expected within a month. In view of that answer, may I know whether those replies have since been received?

**Shri Biswas:** Replies have not been received from all the States, and we are awaiting replies from those States who have not yet submitted their opinions.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Is there any time-limit for receiving those opinions, and may I know whether any Bill is under contemplation?

**Shri Biswas:** I have been asked by another hon. Member behind me what those States are. The States are: Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. They are important States and therefore we are awaiting their replies.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He need not answer the question which has not been heard by the Chair. He may answer Shri Ramaswamy's question.

**Shri Biswas:** Will you kindly repeat that question?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The Law Minister said on the last occasion that on receipt of replies, he will push on with the Bill. Have the replies been received?

**Shri Biswas:** On the last occasion, I stated that no time-limit had been prescribed. But those States which have not replied have been reminded.

GAZETTEERS

*793. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state what progress has been made in respect of revision of the Gazetteers with a view to make them up-to-date?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** The matter is under consideration.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know if the Government realise the importance of these gazetteers and of the necessity of expediting their preparations?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Government is fully conscious about the great importance of revising the Imperial Gazetteers.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know how many times the question of revision of the gazetteers came from the Governments, and for what reasons it was postponed?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The last revision took place in the year 1909, and it cost about Rs. 27 lakhs. The next proposal for revising the Imperial Gazetteer came before the Government in 1922 and then again in 1940. On both these occasions, the work of revision could not be taken due to financial stringency. Now, again, in 1949, the matter has come before the Government, and it is engaging the attention of the Government.

**Shri Nanadas:** When was the gazetteer last revised?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think he mentioned the year—1909.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The last revision took place in the year 1909.

TREATY WITH U.S.A.

***795. Shri Raghavaiah:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any treaty has been signed by India with U.S.A. for the development of Commerce and Navigation;

(b) if so, when;

(c) how far the treaty has been useful for the development of our Commerce and Navigation; and

(d) whether Government will lay a copy of the said treaty on the Table of the House?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know whether Government propose to enter into such a treaty with the Government of the U.S.A.?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Notes have been exchanged between the two Governments intermittently since 1948 and there are still some outstanding points on which neither an agreement nor a deadlock has been reached.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** What are the points of disagreement?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** About the outstanding points, I require notice.

LAMPHELPAT AREA

***796. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 723 asked on the 6th March, 1954 and state:

(a) whether a direct and factual survey of the Lamphelpat area has been carried out;

(b) if so, whether the report will be placed on the Table of the House; and

(c) the authority by whom the survey has been carried out?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) to (c). The Director of Agriculture, Manipur, has submitted a report but as this does not contain adequate material on which a final decision can be based, Government do not consider it necessary to publish the report but propose to make further enquiries into the matter.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Are Government aware that some members of D. C's. office on the order of the Deputy Commissioner, Manipur, went to the Lamphelpat area for about 14 days consecutively in order to survey the land and also to count the number of cattles and according to the report that the area of land and the number of cattles are 1,200 paries and 4,000 cattles respectively?

**Mr. Speaker:** What does he want?

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** The Deputy Commissioner sent his staff and the area was surveyed and the cattle was counted and it was found that.....

**Mr. Speaker:** He is giving the information.

**Dr. Katju:** May I know the date when this incident took place?

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** The survey was presumably taken some two years ago.

**Dr. Katju:** I have no knowledge; I am very sorry.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Director of Agriculture, who was quite a fresh man at the time when the report was called for, prepared a report hastily, without undertaking the factual survey as it was promised by the Minister and sent it and whether the report had been challenged by the peasants as well as by the people of Manipur?

**Dr. Katju:** I have ventured to say in the answer that the report of the

Director of Agriculture has not been found to contain adequate material.

INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*797. **Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received for locating the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal at Guntur; and

(b) the decision that has been taken by Government in this regard?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** (a) Yes.

(b) No decision in the matter has so far been taken.

**Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:** May I know as to how long it will take to come to a decision in the matter?

**Shri Biswas:** Only in April, 1954, the question of re-distribution of the jurisdiction of the various benches were considered and an order issued. Since then several representations have been received for re-allocation of these areas over which these benches exercise jurisdiction at present under the new scheme, including the representation from Andhra. In Madras there were two benches. Now that Andhra has been formed into a separate State, Andhra has claimed a separate bench for itself. Unfortunately, the number of cases arising out of the Andhra area is not sufficiently large to keep one bench occupied. The alternative would be to send a circuit bench from Madras to Andhra to sit there from time to time but similar representations have also been received from other States. If the matter has to be re-opened—it was only settled in April last—we should wait till we get any more applications of this kind, and then we may come to a final decision.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** It is a fact that there are already circuit benches in operation in various other States. Is there any proposal under consideration—instead of waiting for a full re-organisation of the whole scheme—to send a bench to Guntur to dispose of Andhra cases? I want to know whether Government are considering the matter and if not, why not?

**Shri Biswas:** As a matter of fact, it will be always open to the President of the Tribunal to send a circuit bench to any place but we have not come to any final decision as to what the permanent arrangement should be.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** He has not answered my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has answered. The answer is: the President of the Tribunal can send a circuit bench to Guntur. We shall go to the next question.

**राजस्थान के पिछड़े वर्ग**

*७९९ **श्री पी० एल० बारूपाल :** क्या शिक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि यादव राजपूत, जो राजस्थान के पिछड़े वर्गों की सूची में नहीं हैं, यादव (जाटव) के नाम से अपने आप को पिछड़े वर्ग का बता कर भारत सरकार की अनुसूचित जातियों, आदिमजातियों और अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग की छात्रवृत्ति योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत छात्रवृत्तियां प्राप्त कर रहे हैं; और

(ख) यदि सच है, तो सरकार इस विषय में क्या कार्यवाही करना चाहती है ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

**श्री पी० एल० बारूपाल :** क्या शिक्षा मंत्री के सभासचिव कृपया अपना उत्तर हिन्दी में देने का कष्ट करेंगे ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** ऐसा कोई केस सरकार के सामने पेश नहीं हुआ है ।

श्री पी० एल० बारूपाल : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि राजस्थान के कितने विद्यार्थियों की ओर से छात्रवृत्ति प्राप्त करने के लिये प्रार्थनापत्र आये हैं और किन किन जाति के आये हैं और केवल यादव जाति के प्रार्थनापत्र कितने हैं ?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** During the year 1954-55, 18 applications have been received from Rajasthan from candidates belonging to Yadhavs or Jatavs caste; in all 168 applications from other backward classes of Rajsthan have been received.

श्री पी० एल० बारूपाल : जिन लोगों ने सरकार को धोका देकर सहायता प्राप्त की हैं, तो उस विषय में सरकार क्या करेगी ?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** As I have said no such case of deceipt has been received by Government. If the hon. Member is aware of any such case, he may kindly furnish us the details of the case and we will make investigation.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** May I know if the Government is aware that Yadhavs in other parts of India are included in the backward list and if so, what is the difference between Yadhavs and Yadhav Rajputs?

**Dr. M. M .Das:** I do not know the difference between Yadhav sub-caste and Yadhav Rajput. So far as Rajasthan is concerned, Jatav sub-caste has been included in the list of backward classes for award of Central Government scholarships.

INDIANS IN ANDAMANS

***800. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of the Andamans Islands has ordered a section of the Indian Community residing there to procure Pakistan Passports and Indian visas before the 15th September, 1954?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** This is not correct. Only those who had registered themselves as Pakistani nationals, or who were held to be such, have been asked to take out Pakistan passports and Indian visas. This is required under the Indo-Pakistan passport and visa system which provides, *inter alia* that nationals of one country residing in the other should be in possession of their national passports duly visaed by the other country. The last date for obtaining such passports, which in other parts of India was 31st May, 1954, was in the case of the Andamans specially extended to the 15th September, 1954. These cases are being further considered.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know if the attention of the Government has been directed to a representation made by the Andamans Indians Association at Port Blair saying that sixty families are being affected by this order and that they have been living in Andamans from 50 to 60 years?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** I have received a representation but I am not quite sure whether the facts are as the hon. Member has stated.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know if Government had any reports about a meeting of the general public of the Andamans held under the auspices of the Andamans Indians Association on the 30th of July, 1954, when a resolution of the same purport as my question was passed?

**Dr. Katju:** As I said, we have received representations on this matter and it has been fully considered during the last few days and we have extended as many facilities as we possibly can. Those who have declared themselves to be Pakistani nationals or those who have come there after the advent of Independence—their cases will be considered and no one of them will be required to go to Calcutta. They should have facilities provided for them in Andamans to obtain passports through our Government agencies. I would like to assure the hon. Member that I will do whatever can possibly be done.

FIFTEEN-YEAR ANNUITY CERTIFICATES

*801. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the total amount of money collected from the sale of the 15-year Annuity Certificates under the new Small Savings Scheme upto the 31st August 1954 since the inception of the scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** About Rs. 14 lakhs.

**श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह :** बचत योजना के अन्तर्गत जितनी स्कीम चालू की गई हैं, उन में सब से अधिक लोकप्रिय कौन सी स्कीम हो सकी हैं ?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think the hon. Member wants to know which of these schemes is most popular. The National Savings Certificate, which is in vogue for so many years, naturally is the most popular. Of the recently introduced schemes, the National Plan Certificate has also been found to be quite popular, because within the short period near about Rs. 2 crores have been subscribed under National Plan Certificates.

**श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह :** इस सर्टिफिकेट को खरीदने के लिये लोगों को खजाने ही जाना पड़ता हैं या उस को बेचने के लिये किसी और एजेन्सी की मार्फत भी प्रबन्ध किया गया हैं ?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** This can be purchased from Agents and Post Offices. I think the hon. Member knows that these Certificates are not transferable. So there cannot be any question of selling these things.

**सशस्त्र-बलों के रक्षित व्यक्ति**

*८०२. **श्री भक्त दर्शन :** क्या रक्षा मन्त्री ३ मई, १९५४ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २१९३ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि रक्षित (रिजर्व) सैनिकों का वेतन बढ़ाने के बारे में तब से क्या कोई अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया गया हैं ?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** Yes, Sir. It has been decided that Armed Forces reservists should be eligible for a retaining fee of Rs. 10 per mensem.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** माननीय मंत्री महोदय को इस उत्तर के लिये धन्यवाद देते हुए क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि यह निर्णय कब से लागू होगा और इससे पहले जो सैनिक रिजर्व में जा चुके हैं क्या वे भी इस निर्णय से लाभ उठा सकेंगे ?

**श्री त्यागी :** जी हां, जितने भी सैनिक रिजर्व में जा चुके हैं वे सब भी इसका लाभ उठा सकेंगे। बहुत जल्द इस निर्णय के सिलसिले में हुक्म जारी होने वाले हैं।

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** कुछ समय पहले मन्त्री महोदय ने बताया था कि राज्य सरकारों को इस विषय के आदेश दिये गए हैं कि सिविल महकमों में भी इस तरह के आदमियों को तरजीह दी जाय। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस आदेश का कहां तक पालन हुआ हैं और कितने लोगों को नौकरियां दिलाई गई हैं ?

**श्री त्यागी :** इसकी इत्तला इस वक्त मेरे पास नहीं हैं।

**श्रीमती कमलेंदुमति शाह :** क्या यह बात सत्य हैं कि गढ़वाल के कुछ सिपाही नियमित रूप से अपनी तनख्वाहें नहीं पा रहे हैं ?

**श्री त्यागी :** ऐसी कोई बात सरकार की इत्तला में नहीं हैं।

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** How does this increase of the Reserve Forces compare with the increase of the Regular Forces?

**Shri Tyagi:** In fact, there was no Reserve at the time of Independence. The old Reserves were all spent up in the war. Therefore we started practically from scratch. In 1950 the decision was taken that a Reserve should be created. A Reserve is always composed of experienced soldiers who have put in at least seven years colours service. It will therefore take time to fill up the quota of Reserve in the Indian Army. I am sorry I am not

in a position to say the proportions of Reserves in the actual Army.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** What is the total expenditure...

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

NATIONAL PLAN LOAN

***803. Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the amount received in the shape of jewellery and gold towards the National Plan Loan 1964, upto the 31st July 1954 Statewise?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** Subscriptions to the National Plan Loan are receivable in cash only. Government have, however, provided facilities for the conversion of gold and jewellery into cash for investment in the National Plan Loan. The total subscriptions thus received so far amount to about Rs. 85,000 of which Rs. 33,000 are from the Madras State and the balance from Delhi.

**Shri Ram Dass:** May I know whether the Government will provide facilities if there are offers of land and buildings?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** There are obvious difficulties in assessing the values of lands and such properties. Government have no machinery for the purpose and so these are not accepted for the present.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Are these jewelleries purchased by the Government and re-sold? How is the jewellery distributed? Do the Government themselves purchase it or have they any agency through which the purchase takes place?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** It is taken by the bank. The valuation is made and it is purchased by the bank. But the amount is subscribed in cash.

NATIONAL PLAN LOAN

***804. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Imperial Bank and the Central Bank of India have drawn up schemes to offer facilities to potential investors for subscriptions to the National Plan loan; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Banks' circulars giving details of the schemes are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 60.]

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** What is the response to the facilities extended by these two banks which are detailed in the statements?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The response has been very encouragaing.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** What is the meaning of "very encouraging"? I want to know what has been the amount subscribed by the public under these facilities.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The other day the Finance Minister gave the subcriptions under different heads and the numbers of subscribers. And on that basis I think that the response has been very encouraging.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Against what securities are the advances made?

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us go to the next question.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS

***805. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not so far set up a negotiating machinery for disputes between the civilian employees of Defence establishments and Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees organisations have asked for such a negotiating machinery to be set up; and

(c) if so, the reasons why such a machinery has not been set up so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) to (c). The present practice in Defence establishments is that in the case of disputes relating to the Civilian establishment which cannot be amicably settled at lower levels, informal discussions are generally held between representatives of the All India Defence Employees' Federation and the Ministry of Defence. Some time ago the Minister of Defence Organisation felt that there would be advantage in formalising these arrangements and he, therefore, made this suggestion at a meeting with the representatives of the Federation. On the representatives expressing their agreement with the proposal, tentative proposals were communicated to the Federation. On receipt of the Federation's comments, the proposals have been somewhat modified and details of the revised proposals will soon be discussed with the Federation so as to put the proposals into effect.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** What time do Government expect to take to finalise the arrangements for the negotiating machinery and to have it working?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** We have sent our revised proposals to the All India Defence Employees' Federation. It is now for them to indicate their acceptance. They are also welcome to come here and finalise the proposals after discussion if necessary.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Is it not a fact that on account of the lack of negotiating machinery there are many disputes which are leading to avoidable strikes, as in the case of the recent strikes in the Harness and Saddlery Factory at Kanpur?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** We realise that there should be a proper negotiating machinery. And this proposal, as a matter of fact, was made by us.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know the number of strikes and the number of man-hours lost on account of strikes in the various ordnance factories during 1953-54?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The hon. Member may put a separate question.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Is it not a fact that the civil employees of Defence establishments get their grievances rectified when other Defence employees cannot do it, and how is the Government going to solve this anomaly?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The question is beyond me, I could not understand it.

**सरदार ए० एस० सहगल:** मैं आप से हिन्दी में पछ देता हूं।

**Mr. Speaker:** We will go to the next question.

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*807. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Public Service Commission has recommended to Government that some statutory safeguards should be provided to minimize the possibility of increase in number of cases in which Government might depart from the advice of the Commission; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accept this recommendation?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). Government have already adopted the convention that the advice of the Union Public Service Commission should, as a rule, be accepted. Where, however, good and sufficient reason exists for departing from that advice, Government must take decisions which appear to them to be the best in the public interest. The necessary statutory safeguard has already been provided in Article 323 of the Constitution which requires Government in such cases to place before Parliament a memorandum explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's advice. Furthermore, experience has shown that out of several thousands of cases in which the Commission is annually consulted, the number of cases

in which Commission's advice was not accepted by Government is extremely small. Government do not, therefore, consider it necessary to provide any more statutory safeguards.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know the number and the nature of the cases in which Government did not accept the advice of the Union Public Service Commission?

**Shri Datar:** I may give the number though not the nature. Annually about 5,000 to 6,000 cases are referred to the Union Public Service Commission. In 1950-51, their advice was departed from in six cases, in 1951-52 in one case and in 1952-53 in two cases.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know the reasons for the departure?

**Shri Datar:** The reasons have been explained in the memo to which I have invited the hon. Member's attention.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** May I know whether there are any rules to check the actions of the Union Public Service Commission if the actions of the Union Public Service Commission are not in conformity with the rules of recruitment?

**Shri Datar:** This House has supreme authority to check the alleged actions of the Union Public Service Commission.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know how many of the cases in which the Government could not accept the recommendations of the Union Public Service Commission relate to Class I officers?

**Shri Datar:** I would require notice.

**संयुक्त राष्ट्र टैक्नीकल सहायता योजना**

***८११. सरदार हुक्म सिंह:** क्या वित्त मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) संयुक्त राष्ट्र टैक्नीकल सहायता योजना के अन्तर्गत भारत को अब तक कितनी सहायता मिली है;

(ख) यह सहायता किस रूप में मिली है; और

(ग) भारत ने इस कार्य में क्या भाग लिया है ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) The amount of technical assistance received so far, in terms of money, under the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration Programme is as follows:

Obligations incurred upto 1952 $240,873.

Obligations incurred in 1953 $164,085.

Amount approved for 1954 $188,800.

(b) It was received in the form of services of experts, training facilities, and equipment ancillary to the services of the experts.

(c) India has been making full use of the technical assistance available under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance of the United Nations. She also provides expert assistance as well as training facilities in India for nationals of other countries, at the request of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is India the biggest recipient of this technical aid?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I cannot say offhand. But, there are obviously other countries also.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What are the other countries which sent their nationals for training during the last year to India?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** There has been no occasion for India to provide assistance under U.N.T.A.A. Under other specialised agencies experts and training facilities have been provided. Figures regarding this are not readily available. These agencies are handled by other Ministries.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether India sent out its technical experts to any other countries during the last year under this scheme?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** No, not under the scheme but a number of experts have been sent out under the Colombo Plan.

TEACHING OF HINDI IN MANIPUR

***812. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Manipur has been granting a sum of Rs. 50/- per mensem to certain high schools and middle English Schools for the teaching of Hindi;

(b) if so, the number of schools which have been receiving the grant; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend such grant to all Government aided high and middle English Schools in Manipur?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One school.

(c) Yes, to deserving institutions in accordance with the revised rates of maintenance grants to aided schools in Manipur.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Has the Government any proposal to increase the amount?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Amount of what? Maintenance grant to the school?

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Yes.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I beg to have notice of the question.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** What is the success achieved in imparting Hindi education to the school students?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The question relates to a particular grant of Rs. 50 which was given monthly in Manipur to schools for imparting education in Hindi.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** I want to know whether any success has been achieved out of this grant.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Considerable success has been achieved.

CASTE DISTINCTIONS

***813. Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the provision of a column for stating the caste or sub-caste in all application forms for employment, scholarships, and admission to educational and other institutions; and

(b) the steps that Government propose to take for eliminating this caste distinction?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). Yes; this is required to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of empolyment, scholarships, and admission to educational and other institutions.

**Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:** May I know whether it is not possible to content oneself with calling him as belonging to the Scheduled Castes or backward classes?

**Shri Datar:** I may point out to the hon. Member that there are a number of backward communities to whom grants are made by the Education Ministry.

TRAINING FOR ABNORMAL CHILDREN

***816. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any training course or classes for abnormal children especially the mentally deficit;

(b) whether there is any institution in India for such children; and

(c) whether experts are available for such type of work in the country?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) There are not many experts in this field in India.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** In answer to part (b) of the question, the answer is 'Yes'. What is the arrangement that is being made for the training of such abnormal children?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** There is an institution in Bombay under the name, School for Children in need of special care. That is a private institution. We have given some aid to that institution.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether Government have got any assessment or idea of the number of such children? What is the strength of the school that is caring for such children?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The strength of the private school is about 60 pupils. Sixty pupils are on the rolls now so far as our information goes. We have not taken any census about how many children require such training.

**Shri Gidwani:** Is the Central Institute of Education considering any proposal for starting an institution for these deficient children?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** There is a proposal for appointing a National Advisory Council for the Education of the handicapped, which will take up this question in due course. It is expected that in the next Five Year Plan, something may be done in this regard.

### Basic Education

***817. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are officially committed to basic education; and

(b) if so, whether Government have introduced or propose to introduce basic education in the public schools run by Government?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) Yes.

(b) As no Public Schools are directly under the Government of India, the question does not arise.

**Diwan Raghavendra Rao:** May I know if corresponding courses and curriculum are prepared for the Secondary schools so that the pupils who have completed their education in the basic schools may take advantage of the further studies?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Every attempt is made by the Central Government to co-ordinate the basic system of training with the post-basic or secondary system.

### Delhi Polytechnic

***818. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far rules have not been framed regarding the promotions from one grade to the next higher grade for the staff of the Delhi Polytechnic; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) and (b). Rules have been framed for promotion to Class I and Class II posts in the Delhi Polytechnic but they have not been finalised as they are still under discussion with the Union Public Service Commission. As soon as these are finalised, rules for promotion for Class III posts will be finally laid down by the Governing Body of the Polytechnic, but promotions from Class IV and Class III and within Class III are now regulated by rules on the same lines as for Class I and Class II posts.

**Shri V. P. Nayar.** In regard to the rules which are being finalised in respect of Class I and II officers, may I know whether before the rules are

finalised, promotions have been made in such a haphazard manner that it has given rise to considerable concern to the members of the staff?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Government do not agree that promotions have been made in a haphazard manner. But, promotions have been given to deserving candidates.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that it was not done in a haphazard manner. May I know whether Government are giving promotions in any planned manner?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Yes, Sir. The efficiency of the candidate is taken into consideration.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Do the Government have any rule which provides for promotion from one department to another on the basis of entry in service?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Yes, Sir. Generally, recruitment to a new vacant post is made in three ways. (1) Direct recruitment in which the post is advertised; (2) by promotion in which the post is not advertised, but the junior post holders' efficiency is taken into consideration and (3) transfer from one department to the other.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra** rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Question Hour is over. Yes, Short Notice Question. Mr. Gidwani.

## Short Notice Question and Answer

### FACT FINDING COMMITTEE (BANK DISPUTE

**S.N.Q. No. 10. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in the *Times of India* dated 4th September, 1954 on page one, Delhi Edition, to the effect that the Government of India are likely to appoint a fact finding committee shortly to collect data relevant to the Bank dispute; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee and when it will be appointed

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). Government have since seen the news item. It is proposed, as the Prime Minister observed, to enquire into the facts bearing on this specific dispute more fully, although not necessarily through a committee.

It has already been stated by the Prime Minister in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd September and by me in the Lok Sabha on the 30th August and in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd September that in pursuance of the recommendations of the Shroff Committee, steps will be taken to appoint an Expert Committee to examine, among other things, ways and means of rationalising the wage and salary structure in the banking system and to explore possible avenues of reducing the burden of operating costs. The question is presently under examination in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

This is slightly more expanded than the reply that was circulated.

**Shri Gidwani:** Since he has no intention of appointing a committee, what will be the procedure then?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The procedure may be that departmental officers, in consultation with the Reserve Bank officers, will be asked to go into any further representations in regard to the facts of the situation that might be supplied by the employees or from any other source.

**Shri Gidwani:** Will the bank employees or the labour be associated in any way with that enquiry?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** There will be no formal association, but the enquiry will result from representations made by employees. They will also be given an opportunity of seeing the data that have already been collected.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Do Government propose to make any enquiry into the working of the fifteen or seventeen exchange banks, the so-called foreign banks, which have throttled Indian economy, whose profits are enormous...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Member may straight ask for the information that he wants.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Yes, Sir, I am just asking....which have throttled Indian economy and also where there are no Indian employees in the higher cadres?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No such separate enquiry is contemplated.

**Shri Gidwani** *rose*—

**Shri Joachim Alva:** One more question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let him ask.

**Shri Gidwani:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the resolution passed by the Central Committee of the All-India Bank Employees' Union to the effect that not only the Government order is defective, but it also reduced the basic pay of about 90 per cent. of bank employees immediately with consequential loss on provident fund, bonus and gratuity? If so, what has the Government to say about it?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** These are also among the facts to be enquired into.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Apart from the enquiry into the facts supplied by employees, does the Government propose to send a questionnaire of their own to elicit more facts so that the data can be more complete?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** We have not quite decided that. We have data relating to thirty banks out of 129 which were affected by the award. These thirty banks were representative and possibly they account for a large proportion of the business, but it is possible that we shall try and obtain, provided it does not entail any great expenditure of time, data in regard to any other important banks that might have been left out.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will now proceed to the next item.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I ask.....

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Ordnance Depots

***775. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 622 asked on the 4th December, 1953 and state:

(a) the progress of re-organisation programme undertaken in the various Ordnance Depots;

(b) whether all the stock in the Ordnance Depots is properly stacked and stocked; and

(c) whether sufficient covered accommodation is now available in these Ordnance Depots for the proper stocking of the materials to protect them from the effects of weather?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) The reorganisation scheme which was started in the various Ordnance Depots in June 1950, has since been completed in all the Depots except for certain items in the Central Ordnance Depot, Agra.

(b) and (c). All the stocks are properly stacked and stocked, but covered accommodation would not be available for some time to come.

### Scholarships to Sikkim Students

***784. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any students from Sikkim have been awarded scholarships for study in India under the General Cultural Scholarships Scheme;

(b) if so, what is their number so far; and

(c) in what institutions and on what subjects they have been receiving education at present?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). One student, who studied for the LL.B. degree at Delhi University and left in June, 1954 on the completion of the course.

TRAINING OF AFRICAN STUDENTS

*786. **Shri Bahadur Singh**: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state the nature of training to be imparted to the 25 African students selected under the General Cultural Scholarships Scheme in the year 1953-54 and 1954-55 for training in cottage industries and other vocational subjects and the expenditures incurred thereon till now?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: The scheme for training in Cottage Industries is quite distinct from the General Cultural Scholarships Scheme. This training, for a period of about two years, is devised so as to train skilled workers and to equip educated unemployed persons for suitable industrial employment. One trainee was selected during 1953-54 and about Rs. 1,090 have been spent so far.

AID TO TRIBAL STUDENTS OF TRIPURA

*787. **Shri Biren Dutt**: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aid has been given to the Tribal students studying in the Karaimura High School of Tripura in 1953-54; and

(b) whether the students have made any representation for aid?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: (a) No. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

*792. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh**: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of squadrons attached to the Air Wing of the National Cadet Corps at present;

(b) the names of the places where they are stationed; and

(c) the total number of cadets in them?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra)**: (a) 9.

(b) Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Patna, Delhi, Kanpur, Jullundur, Nagpur and Bangalore.

(c) 960.

INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL IN KENYA

*794. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy**: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Indian capital which has been invested in Kenya since 1945; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase this investment?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh)**: (a) I regret Government have no information.

(b) No Sir.

ARREARS OF INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX

*798. **Shri K. C. Sodhia**: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears of income-tax and super-tax collections standing unrealised on the 31st, March 1954;

(b) whether the payment of such arrears is allowed in instalments and if so, under what circumstances;

(c) whether any amount was written off during 1953-54; and

(d) if so, how much?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) The total amount of income-tax and super-tax demand standing unrealised on the 31st March, 1954 was Rs. 162·6 crores.

(b) Yes; Payment of arrears is allowed in instalments where it appears that the assessee is not in a position to pay the entire demand immediately and that by granting instalment, recovery of the total amount will be facilitated. In such cases assessee is usually called upon to furnish adequate security.

(c) and (d). The total amount of tax written off during 1953-54 was about Rs. 10 lakhs.

FOREIGNERS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

*806. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign experts engaged in each Ordnance Factory in India;

(b) their emoluments and other service conditions; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government to make our technicians, independent of the guidance of foreign experts in these trades?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 61.]

(c) Suitable Indian Officers have been attached to these technicians. It is intended that the Indian Officers should replace the foreign technicians as soon as they have acquired sufficient experience.

SPECIAL REORGANISATION UNIT

*808. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons declared surplus from Central Government Offices as a result of the recommendation of the Special Reorganisation Unit; and

(b) how many of them have been re-employed?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) 678 persons were declared surplus so far as a result of the recommendations of the Unit referred to.

(b) Of the persons mentioned above, 571 have been re-employed.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS

*810. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether as suggested in the First Five Year Plan any steps have so far been taken for the objective assessment of the way in which arrangements of recruitment to posts by Public Service Commissions have worked;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any changes in any particular direction have so far been effected for the recruitment of better personnel through the Public Service Commissions?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) to (c). The Union Public Service Commission have made arrangements to obtain from the Ministries concerned periodical assessments for the first two years of the merit and performance of all persons appointed on the recommendation of the Commission. Confidential periodical assessments are also made by the Ministries concerned in respect of persons appointed on the results of competitive examinations conducted by the Commission. A study of this material has shown that there is no serious reason to apprehend that the present arrangements for recruitment through the Union Public Service Commission do not produce personnel of the requisite quality. The objective review has however shown that there is room for improvement in respect of the time taken in completing the process of recruitment. With the concurrence of the Commission Government have recently issued instructions designed to minimise such delays.

WOMEN'S SAVINGS CAMPAIGN

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
**Shri V. P. Nayar:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the Women's Savings Campaign till the 1st July, 1954;

(b) the total amount incurred on the working of the Central Advisory Committee for Women's Savings Campaign so far; and

(c) the collections made by members of the Committee from their respective areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) About Rs. 41,000 since September, 1953.

(b) About Rs. 25,000 upto the end of June, 1954.

(c) Collections under the Women's Savings Campaign since its commencement on the 1st October, 1953 to 30th June, 1954 in the respective areas have been as follows:

| Area | Amount collected |
|---|---|
| | Rs. |
| 1. Madhya Bharat & Ajmer | 4,54,530 |
| 2. Delhi | 1,96,320 |
| 3. Hyderabad | Information is not available. |
| 4. Madras | 89,300 |
| 5. Bombay | 2,23,200 |
| 6. Malabar & Travancore Cochin | 36,340 |
| 7. Assam | 11,285 |
| 8. Andhra | 16,140 |
| 9. Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal and Maharashtra | 6,28,220 |
| 10. Gujrat, Saurashtra & Kutch | 40,000 |
| 11. Mysore | 670 |
| 12. Punjab, PEPSU and Himachal Pradesh | 2,70,330 |
| 13. West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa | 745 |
| 14. Rajasthan | 6,93,930 |
| 15. Uttar Pradesh | 58,105 |
| Total | 27,19,115 |

In addition, promises amounting to over Rs. 6 lakhs have been received.

ORDNANCE COMMANDANT, DEHU

**381. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on the establishment of Ordnance Commandant, Dehu from its inception till the 1st July, 1954;

(b) the purpose for which this office has been established; and

(c) how far it has achieved the purpose for which it was set-up?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) Rs. 4,08,748 from 1st December, 1948 upto 31st July, 1954.

(b) HQ. Dehu Ordnance Depot was raised as a measure of efficiency, to bring all the Ordnance Installations located at Dehu (*i.e.* Central Ordnance Depot, Ordnance Depot, Ammunition Depot and Vehicle Depot) under the control of one Commandant, who would be responsible for the general co-ordination of administration and executive matters. On creation of the appointment of Ordnance Commandant, in the rank of a Colonel, the rank of the Comd. COD Dehu was down-graded from Col. to Lt.-Col.

(c) It has been discharging the function for which it was set up, satisfactorily.

MALPRACTICES

**382. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a court of enquiry was held sometime back, on certain allegations regarding the construction of a huge building, by a senior official of the Indian Army, while he was the Sub-Area Commander in Poona; and

(b) if so, whether Government will place on the Table of the House a copy of the proceedings of the court of enquiry referred to above?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi)**: (a) No court of enquiry was held.

(b) Does not arise.

SANSKRIT INSTITUTIONS IN RAJASTHAN

**383. Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sanskrit Schools or Colleges in Rajasthan aided by the Central Government;

(b) the number and names of institutions in Rajasthan that have been given grants by the Central Government for Research work; and

(c) the subjects in which these institutions conduct research?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: (a) Nil.

(b) and (c). As no specific period has been mentioned, information relating to the year 1953-54 (upto 12th February, 1954) is given below:

*No. of Institutions*: One.

*Name*: The Vidya Bhawan Teachers Training College, Udaipur.

*Subjects of research*: (i) the causes of indiscipline among the students; and (ii) the present educational system and the requirements of a democratic social order.

MEDICAL CARE OF STUDENTS

**384. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have given any grant to any state for the medical care of the needy students during the period 1947 to 1954;

(b) the amount given to each State year-wise;

(c) whether Government have under its own auspices conducted a student health survey any time after 15th August, 1947; and

(d) if not, whether it is proposed to undertake such a survey in the near future?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) No scheme for such a survey has yet been formulated.

MEDICAL CARE OF STUDENTS

**385. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the *per capita* expenditure incurred for the medical care of students in the various States?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: No expenditure has been incurred by the Government of India for the medical care of students in the various States.

Information is not readily available of the expenditure incurred for this purpose by the State Governments.

INDIAN TEAMS SENT ABROAD

**386. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the following details about the Indian teams which were sent abroad with assistance from Government in the years 1952-53 and 1953-54:

(a) the number of actual participants in the Sport or Game;

(b) the number of non-participants who went with the team;

(c) the honours won by each team;

(d) the total expenditure on each team; and

(e) the names of the Sports Organisations which sponsored the tour in each case?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: (a) to (d).

Information is not readily available and it is being collected.

(e) List of the Sports Organisations which sponsored the tour is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 62.]

SPORTS AND GAMES IN INDIA

**387. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the note sent up by the Minister of Health for consideration at the Conference on sports convened by the Ministry of Education in August, 1954?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** A copy of a note sent personally by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur for consideration by the Conference on Sports is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 63.]

GOLD AND SILVER

**388. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of trade position with respect to the import and export of gold and silver bullion during the period from 1st January to 30th June, 1954;

(b) whether it is a fact that the quantum of import during the above period was much less than the export of the above commodities;

(c) if so, by what amount the import fell short in these months; and

(d) what was the cause of the fall in imports?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) to (c). The information is given in the Accounts relating to the Foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India, a copy of which is available in the Library of the Sabha.

(d) Does not arise as there is no fixed relationship between the quantum of exports and the quantum of imports.

ORDNANCE ESTABLISHMENTS

**389. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the declared strength of (i) permanent (ii) temporary and (iii) extra temporary hands in the Ordnance Establishments of the Indian Army Navy and Air Force during—

(i) the last world war

(ii) as on 1st June, 1950

(iii) as on 1st June, 1954; and

(b) the strength of war time temporary civilian employees in Defence installations whose service conditions stipulated that they are to serve for the duration of war plus one year?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 64.]

(b) 394.

RETRENCHMENT IN COCHIN NAVAL BASE

**390. { Shri A. K. Gopalan: / Shri Punnoose:**

Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some civilian employees of the Cochin Naval Base were retrenched or reverted in the first half of 1954;

(b) the number of employees so retrenched and of those who were reverted to the lower scales; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for such retrenchment or reversion?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Twenty-five civilians, who were employed in the Cochin Naval Base against vacancies meant for Service personnel, were rendered surplus consequent on Service personnel becoming available to man the posts. Fourteen of them have been reverted to lower appointments and the remaining eleven provided with alternative employments.

### केन्द्रीय शिक्षा संस्था

३९१. **सेठ गोविन्द दास** : क्या शिक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि केन्द्रीय शिक्षा संस्था में इस समय अध्यापकों और छात्रों की कुल संख्या कितनी है ?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** The total number of teachers is 14, including the Principal and the Vice-Principal.

The total number of students during the current session is 105.

### Grants to Universities

**392. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian Universities have requested the Government of India for non-recurring grants for construction of college buildings, hostels and library buildings during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the names of those universities; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Universities of Agra, Allahabad, Andhra, Annamalai, Banaras, Baroda, Bombay, Calcutta, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnatak, Madras, Nagpur, Osmania, Patna, Poona, Punjab, Rajputana, Roorkee, Utkal and the Visva-Bharati.

(c) No, Sir.

### Manganese (Production)

**393. Shri B. C. Das:** Will the Minister **of Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of manganese in India decreased or increased in the last six months of this year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1953;

(b) the percentage thereof; and

(c) how it compares with the world production of manganese in the last six months?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** (a) to (c). I regret, no comparison can be made as production figures are compiled on a twelve-monthly basis and information regarding 1954 is not yet due.

### Manganese (Cost of Production)

**394. Shri B. C. Das:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state what is the average cost of production per ton of manganese from manganese mines?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** Cost of production of manganese varies from mine to mine in each State. A statement showing information collected is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 65.]

### Defence Services Colony, Kilokri

**395. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the houses constructed in the Defence Services Colony at Kilokri are intended for active servicemen or for *ex*-servicemen to be occupied by them permanently;

(b) if they are for active service-men, whether they are given on rent or on any other basis; and

(c) what is the significance of the colony houses being constructed under the Co-operative Society of Commissioned or non-Commissioned Officers?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** (a) Government have not constructed any houses in the Defence Services Colony at Kilokri. They have merely allotted plots of land for construction of houses to displaced service and *ex*-service officers and men.

(b) The plots have been allotted on the basis of 99 years' lease on payment of annual premium calculated at Rs. 10 per square yard, and ground rent assessed at three per cent. of the premium for the first twenty years.

(c) Some of the allottees in the Defence Services Colony at Kilokri have formed a Co-operative House Building Society, which maintains technical staff to prepare plans, works out specifications and supervises the construction of buildings on behalf of its members.

AID TO SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

396. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:**
**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of organisations in each State which received aid from the Central Social Welfare Board in the year 1953-54; and how many of them will be given aid during 1954-55 and to what extent;

(b) what is the criterion for granting aid to the institutions;

(c) whether any recommendation or certification is necessary for securing the aid; and

(d) if so, whose?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** (a) A statement showing organisations aided by the Central Social Welfare Board during 1953-54 is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 66.]

About 1,500 organisations are expected to receive financial aid during 1954-55 and the total amount earmarked for this purpose is Rs. 75,00,000.

(b) to (d). The Board has laid down certain principles regarding the standing, work and financial status of the organizations and all requests for grants are examined in the light of these principles.

SEIZURE OF GOLD

**397. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold seized by the Customs Preventive staff at Calcutta Port from January 1953 to July, 1954;

(b) the biggest seizure made during the above period; and

(c) the number of cases in which the force guards have been involved in the smuggling of gold and how they have been dealt with?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) The quantity of gold seized by the Customs Preventive staff at Calcutta Port from January, 1953 to July, 1954 is 10,692·91 tolas.

(b) The biggest seizure involving 8,983·64 tolas of gold took place on 11th May, 1954 on board S. S. "Eastern Queen".

(c) If the hon. Member desires to know whether any officers of the Customs Preventive staff were implicated in the smuggling of gold, the answer is, no.

WAR SERVICE CANDIDATES VACANCIES

**398. Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies for 'war service' candidates have been reserved since 1947 in the various Ministries of the Government of India; and

(b) how many have been filled up so far by such candidates according to categories?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). There has been no reservation of vacancies for 'war service' candidates after 1947. 70 per cent. of the vacancies arising between 1942 and 1945 inclusive were reserved for such candidates. For the years 1946 and 1947, reservations for 'war service' candidates were governed

by an office memorandum issued by the then Home Department, dated the 16th August, 1946, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 67.] The numbers of vacancies actually reserved and filled by 'war service' candidates in pursuance of these orders are not readily available.

ESTATE DUTY ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

**401. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsequent to the passing of the Estate Duty Act, any of the States (other than those mentioned in the First Schedule of the Act) have passed resolutions adopting this Act as contemplated in Article 252(1) of the Constitution of India in respect of the estate duty on agricultural lands situated in those States;

(b) if so, the names of the States who have passed such resolutions; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to see that all the States pass such resolutions?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) and (b). Subsequent to the passing of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, the States of Assam and Bihar have adopted the Act in respect of the estate duty on agricultural lands situated in those States by passing resolutions on the 18th and the 15th March, 1954, respectively.

(c) All States were addressed on the subject as far back as April, 1951, impressing on them the advantages of authorising the Centre to legislate for the levy of estate duty on agricultural land to secure uniformity in imposition of the duty. Those States which agreed to this, passed the necessary resolutions under Article 252 of the Constitution, while others which did not agree, wanted to wait and see the working or to levy the duty themselves. Estate Duty in respect of agricultural land is a State subject and we cannot compel the States to adopt the Estate Duty Act, 1953, under Article 252(1) of the Constitution.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

**402. Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches opened by the Imperial Bank of India in the different parts of India during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54, State-wise; and

(b) the number of branches which are proposed to be opened in 1954-55, State-wise?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) and (b). In pursuance of the recommendation of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee, the Reserve Bank of India made arrangements with the Imperial Bank of India whereby the latter agreed to open 114 branches during its five-year expansion programme beginning from 1st July, 1951. A statement showing the number of branches opened so far by the Imperial Bank of India in Parts 'A' and 'C' States since 1st July, 1951, and proposed to be opened during the remaining period, *i.e.*, by the 30th June, 1956, is given below:

| | Number of branches agreed upon to be opened during the five-year period ending on 30-6-56 | Number of branches opened up to the 30-8-1954 | Number of branches which are yet to be opened by 30-6-1956 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Part 'A' States* | | | |
| Andhra | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Assam | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Bihar | 7 | 3 | 4 |

| | Number of branches agreed upon to be opened during the five-year period ending on 30-6-56 | Number of branches opened up to the 30-8-54 | Number of branches which are yet to be opened by 30-6-1956 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bombay | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 16 | 7 | 9 |
| Madras | 2 | .. | 2 |
| Orissa | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Punjab | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 21 | 13 | 8 |
| West Bengal | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| *Part 'C' States* | | | |
| Ajmer | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Bhopal | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Coorg | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 3 | .. | 3 |
| Kutch | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Manipur | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Tripura | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Vindhya Pradesh | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 114 | 48 | 66 |

It cannot be said how many of the remaining 66 branches will be opened during the rest of the year 1954-55. The year-wise number of branches opened is as below:

July 1951—June 1952 Bombay 2, Madhya Pradesh 1, Punjab 1 and Uttar Pradesh 1.
Total 5

July 1952—June 1953 Andhra 1, Assam 1, Bihar 1, Bombay 4, Madhya Pradesh 4, Orissa 1, Punjab 4, Uttar Pradesh 9, West Bengal 3 and Kutch 1.
Total 29

July 1953—June 1954 Bihar 2, Bombay 3, Madhya Pradesh 2, Orissa 1, Uttar Pradesh 3 and Vindhya Pradesh 2.
Total 13

July and August 1954 Bombay 1

## विक्रय-कर और क्रय-कर

४०३. **श्री आर० सी० शर्मा** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद २८६(३) के अन्तर्गत अत्यावश्यक वस्तुएं (विक्रय अथवा क्रय पर कर की घोषणा तथा विनियमन) अधिनियम के १९५२ में प्रभावी होने के बाद किन-किन राज्यों को राष्ट्रपति ने अत्यावश्यक वस्तुओं के विक्रय अथवा क्रय पर कर लगाने के लिये अनुमति प्रदान की है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah)**: The President has conveyed his assent under provisions of Article 286(3) of the Constitution to Sales Tax legislation on essential goods in the undermentioned States after the enactment of the Essential Goods (Declaration and Regulation of Tax on Sale or Purchase) Act, 1952:

1. Bihar.
2. Bombay.
3. Madhya Bharat.
4. Rajasthan.
5. Saurashtra.

# LOK SABHA

# DEBATES

**(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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*(23rd August to 11th September, 1954)*

## Seventh Session

## 1954

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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Dated.....27/11/20



## LOK SABHA

*Saturday, 11th September, 1954*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*(See Part I)*

12.7 P.M.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS ACT, 1952

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notifications No. 18/37/52-Public, dated the 13th January, 1954 and No. 18/11/54-Public, dated the 15th March, 1954, under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952. [*Placed in Library. See* No. S-310/54.]

## CONVICTION OF MEMBER

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram today, or, more correctly, last night about midnight or so:

"Speaker House of the People New Delhi.

On 10th September, at 11-40 A.M. Shri Kandala Subramanyam Member House of People arrested at Karivena Village, Atmakur Police Station, Kurnool, Rural District Andhra State, under Sections 143 and 447 I.P.C. in connection with an Agrarian Satyagraha. He was convicted and sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment under Section 143 I.P.C. and three months rigorous imprisonment under section 447 I.P.C., both sentences to run concurrently by Stationary Sub-magistrate Nandikotkur. He is being sent to Alipur Jail, Bellary. Detailed report follows."

That is the intimation that I have received today.





## CONSTITUTION (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari on the 10th September, 1954 for reference of the Bill to Joint Committee.

There are also some amendments. They are also under consideration. In this connection, the hon. Members know the procedure as laid down in our rules about considering any motion or any Bill for amendment of the Constitution. The discussion, as settled by the Business Advisory Committee, will continue up to 1-55 P.M. Referring to the convention which I stated the other day, it being interval for lunch, we shall not have voting at that time. The voting will have to be by a division in the lobbies. The voting will take place after the flood debate is over. Incidentally that will give fuller time to the flood debate also.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava was on his legs.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Gurgaon): Sir, I was submitting yesterday that the Constitution was not enacted by the framers as if every

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava].

State in India was a federating unit, in the sense that all its powers were with itself and only certain powers were given to the Centre. As a matter of fact, our attention has been brought to this fact by Mr. More. Still, Mr. More should remember that this Constituent Assembly consisted of many Congress Members, a majority of Congress Members, and they framed the Constitution; and if the Congress had a right to pass resolutions in previous days, that Constituent Assembly had a right to enact the Constitution in the manner they pleased.

[SHRI PATASKAR *in the Chair*]

It is usual, whenever an argument is made, to refer to old resolutions of the Congress or to certain other matters which are favourable to the argument which is being sponsored by the hon. Member at the time, but it is forgotten that at all other times all the other Members of the Congress have the right to change that resolution also. We enacted something in the Constituent Assembly, and now we are considering a change. Now, is it not up to us to change it. It is quite right that this Constitution is a sacred document and we should not change it in a haphazard manner or without giving full deliberation to it. But, at the same time, I do not understand why Mr. More is calling our attention to the fact that it is a federal Constitution.

Sir, in this federal Constitution, we gave all the residuary powers to the Centre deliberately, and in this Constitution, as I submitted yesterday, the spirit of unitary federation permeates everywhere. That is, we have got articles 355, 356 also in the Constitution, and the Centre is, as a matter of fact, responsible to the States also and the people of the States for good government and for all other purposes and to see that the Government is carried on in accordance with the Constitution. I should, therefore, submit that we have got our own peculiar Constitution, and article 368 is there in the Constitution by virtue of which we can amend the Constitution. When I am on article 368, I must call the attention of the House to one very important factor, namely that in an amendment of this nature, there is a provision given in article 368, itself, which is very salutary and which says:

> "Provided that if such amendment seeks to make any change in—
>
> (a) article 54, article 55, article 73, article 162 or article 241, or
>
> (b) Chapter IV of Part V, Chapter V of Part VI, or Chapter I of Part XI, or
>
> (c) any of the Lists in the Seventh Schedule, or
>
> (d) the representation of States in Parliament, or
>
> (e) the provisions of this article,
>
> the amendment shall also require to be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States specified in Parts A and B of the First Schedule by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the Bill making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent.".

This means that in a matter of this moment, the States are by law authorised to give their reactions to a Bill of this sort as a majority of them must ratify such a measure. So, the safeguard is enacted in article 368 itself.

But barring that, there are certain special circumstances in the economy of our country, and in the present position in which we find ourselves today, that I cannot see any time when the Centre shall feel safe or shall be justified in giving all these powers to the States. For instance, I cannot foresee any time, at least for the coming twenty years or so, when there will be no plan in this country, so far as progress is concerned. We have today got the First Five Year Plan, and the Second Five Year Plan is in

the offing, and then, I do not know if there will not be any third or fourth Five Year Plan; I am sure they are bound to be there. As long as planning goes on in any country, I cannot see how these sorts of powers can be completely transferred to the States.

It is true that when we enacted the Constitution, we did not foresee that these Plans would be coming. In fact, we had no clear perception, and no clear appreciation of the fact that planning will have this sort of influence in our economy. As long as planning is these, I do not see how in regard to those matters also which are of primary concern to the States, the States will have full control over all the matters which are mentioned in article 369. Therefore, to my mind, this fact alone, namely that the Planning Commission is there, and that the Plans are there, is sufficient to lead us to agree to an amendment of this entry.

**Shri S. S. More** (Sholapur): Does the hon. Member plead that planning is inconsistent with provincial autonomy?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I did not say so. It is not my intention to say so. I do not see how provincial autonomy will be affected if some of the powers are concurrent with the Centre. I cannot see how planning can be successful otherwise. I can not see any time when, in the circumstances of our country, price control can be taken away from the Central Government. Price control is even today in the Concurrent List, and if the price control is there, Government are able to influence all those matters which are mentioned in article 369.

**Shri S. S. More:** It becomes accumulated corruption. (*Interruptions*)

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** It may mean anything. Shri S. S. More is certainly entitled to call it corruption or anything else. He has got mastery over his tongue, and he can find out expressions to express himself. If price control is a concurrent subject, I do not see how provincial autonomy in respect of these matters can be given to the States for all time or even to a full extent. If the Centre can control the price of wheat and also the prices of other articles like fodder, foodstuffs etc., I would like to know how the States can go against it, and how that price control can fail to influence the growth of foodstuffs and other agricultural commodities. Suppose today the price of wheat is fixed at a certain amount that would also control the price of all other commodities, and that will influence the incentives for growing this or that crop. So, I should think that as long as price control is with the Government of India, it is idle to think that there can be provincial autonomy in the matter of the production of foodstuffs etc. The only point is that I do not consider that the Government of India will ever behave in such a manner that by having this price control on foodstuffs, they will try to influence the production of other things also. It is much better that we see things in their full perspective, and do things rightly and straightforwardly and not colouredly and by crooked methods. I should, therefore, think that as long as the question of planning is there, and as long as we are not divided or re-organised into States, fully equipped States which have got an economy of their own, and which are self-sufficient in the matter of foodstuffs etc., I cannot foresee any future when it will be wise for us not to give powers to the Central Government to control all these matters.

I remember in the year 1949 probably, we had a very good bumper crop of gram in Hissar District. We approached our Provincial Government to allow us to export gram. Gram was selling at Rs. 6-8-0 per maund in Hissar District; it was selling at Rs. 10 in Palwal in Gurgaon District, and at Rs. 20 or so in Madras and Calcutta. And yet, we were

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

not allowed to export gram. As a result, Hissar District alone lost something like a crore of rupees. What happened in Delhi subsequently? There was a tonga strike here, as many hon. Members might remember, and the Government of India wanted the Punjab Government to allow gram to be exported out of Punjab to Delhi. But the Punjab Government would not agree. Mr. Munshi asked the Punjab Government to take Rs. 13 instead of Rs. 9 per maund, *i.e.*, Rs. 4 more per maund, but the Punjab Government would still not agree. Then, Mr. Munshi took courage in both hands, and decontrolled gram, with the result that though it was stated by the Punjab Government that we did not have enough stocks of gram in Hissar District, still we sent 60,000 maunds of gram to Bihar. Ultimately, whatever the local Government had expressed as its estimate was proved to be quite wrong. It so happens that the local and State Governments have sectional interests. When the question of rice was discussed here, every Member from Madras was complaining that they were not having good rice there, whereas we in the Punjab were given good rice in ration. Then I submitted from my place, here in the House that in the Punjab, you are giving us rice, we are not rice-eating people, take away this rice from us, and give it to Madras; and the Punjab Government had to change their orders. So, I must submit in regard to this matter, that there are deficit States in India, and there are surplus States also. So far as the interests of the deficit States are concerned, they can only be protected by the Central Government.

In India, we want to have one kind of uniform economy only. I should say that I will not be happy as long as the differences in price of essential articles in the whole of the country are allowed to be more than what is warranted by the cost of transport only. I have seen that in certain years, the prices have been about Rs. 40 in Bombay and Bengal, whereas in other parts of the country, they have been in the region of Rs. 20 per maund, in respect of certain cereals and other articles. I do not like this. In article 16 of the Constitution, as it was originally drafted—that article is not to be found in our present Constitution, and probably it has been replaced by article 301—we laid it down as a fundamental right that commerce and trade in India will be free, which meant that in all parts of India, things will be sold at practically the same price.

But what do we find, when we have given these powers to the States? We know the history of the sales tax, and we know how article 286 has been abused. We know how the country is feeling uncomfortable over the powers that have been exercised by the States in regard to sales tax. There is no uniformity in the whole of India, with regard to sales tax.

[SHRI BARMAN *in the Chair*]

As long as we have got an economy like the one which we possess today, as long as the States are not re-organised properly, as long as India is not divided into four or six parts only, each of which will have an economy of its own and be self-sufficient in the matter of foodstuffs etc., as long as that is not done, I do not see how we can be happy in the whole of India, and how we can have uniformity as regards prices etc., unless the Centre is armed with these powers for many years to come.

It is quite true that so far as the theory goes, the decentralisation theory is there. The theory propounded by our friend, Mr. More, that in a Federation the powers of the States should be defined and that the Centre should exercise only those powers which are surrendered by the States to the Centre, is there. All these theories are correct as theories. I have got every sympathy with them; I have sympathy with the fact

that our Constituent Assembly, to start with, liked that these powers should be placed with the States. I am not forgetful of all that, but at the same time, I cannot ignore what I have seen during the last five or six years. When originally we had no idea of planning, no idea of how things would shape themselves in the coming years, we thought that it would be better that we copied other States in the world where federating units were given these powers over land, water, foodstuffs etc. But we have found that in the peculiar circumstances of India and in the peculiar conditions of our country, it was absolutely necessary for the Centre to possess these powers and unless the Central Government possessed these powers, and exercised them, the country would not be happy.

Apart from this, during all these five years we have seen that there have been price controls in regard to many articles. Though I have been a very great critic so far as the policy of the Government about controls was concerned—I have always been of the view that these controls have aggravated corruption etc. etc.—all the same, I would be wrong in submitting before this House that these controls have not had their good and salutary effects. Go to any factory, go to the poor people, go to the ordinary consumer: he will tell you 'we will not have got sufficient cereals and sufficient other things to consume at reasonable rates, if there were no controls'. Therefore, it was that our labour population always insisted that there should be controls. So controls have been useful also. Now, it is a matter really between the Centre and the States. When I find that the opinion of the State Governments is also in favour of the view that these controls have proved very useful, I think that so far as public opinion is concerned in this matter, it is in favour of the view that we should amend this article. Now, I will just read out the views of the local Governments in regard to these controls. I find at page 12 of the Report of the Commodity Controls Committee the following:

> "A majority of the State Governments, either in their written evidence or oral evidence before us, expressed the view that the working of the three Control Acts has on the whole reacted well on the general economy of the country. It is pointed out by them that the existence of controls has not hampered production; in fact, that production of certain commodities actually increased. In regard to prices, the view is strong that controls had the desired effect of keeping prices steady if not lowering them. Prices of essential commodities, it is pointed out by them, were stabilised at reasonable levels. The State Governments are also of the view that proper supply and distribution of the commodities have been achieved as a result of controls. But for controls, equitable distribution of the essential commodities would not have been possible".

This is the view about the effect of controls. This Committee also was armed with the views of the Planning Commission on controls. I do not want to read the long passage which I find in the Report of this Committee at page 16, but all the same, as the hon. Minister has suggested if one reads these first 23 or 25 pages of this book, it will repay perusal. A very strong and almost conclusive case has been made out by the Planning Commission, as per paragraph 31, for the view which they have expressed, and I think after reading this, nobody shall remain unconvinced of the fact that in India these controls have got to remain for a long time in our economy, unless many things have changed, unless the pattern of things has changed so appreciably that controls will not be required at all. I do not foresee any future in which controls will not be found here in India to be useful.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma** (Meerut Distt. —South): Anywhere in the world.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My friend says, anywhere in the world. I certainly agree with him. If planning is to be found, controls are a necessary part of it. If you want planning, you must have controls of some sort; otherwise, planning has got no meaning. I can understand that the way in which these controls are worked may be irksome, may be very difficult, may be giving trouble to the people. But that is no reason why we should be against controls. I am very much against the way the controls are managed; they may prove perhaps very disastrous. It was not due to controls but due to the mismanaged working of the controls that people suffer. We know what happened in the States. After all the working of these controls, the implementation of these controls, will take place in the States. And in the States they are not properly worked. But the blame does not lie with controls, but with their working. In the very nature of things, it is difficult to work controls, but all the same, we cannot escape from this difficulty. If we are to have planning, if we are to work in the best interests of India, it is absolutely necessary that the Central Government should have concurrent powers. I submitted for the consideration of the House that this means that if we amend item 33 and give power over these articles to the Central Government, the result will be that the Central Government being too powerful will have the entire charge and the State Governments will have practically no independence in this matter. But I see that though many of the States have agreed, it is Bombay alone which has raised some difficulty.

**Shri Raghavachari** (Penukonda): Some have not replied.

**Shri S. S. More:** It requires backbone.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** As Mr. More says, perhaps it requires back-bone.....

**Shri U. M. Trivedi** (Chittor): Not back-bone, but Backbay!

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:**...to say that the Centre should not have those powers. They do not have the courage of saying so...

**Shri Raghavachari:** With your permission, I would like to point out that it is unfair to attribute any motives to those people who are still considering the matter.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Then I am quite right in saying that so far as they are concerned, they have not seen fit to make a reply that they are not agreeable. At the same time, which are the States which want the control to continue. In the list given by the hon. Minister yesterday, I found that many of the small States were enumerated, to start with. Now, it is in the interest of the deficit States and the small States that the Centre should have the control so that they may not be put to any difficulty...

**Shri S. S. More:** Bombay is a deficit State.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I know that Bombay is a deficit State. But Bombay had itself said in the previous letter that so far as cotton was concerned, the Centre might have control...

**Shri S. S. More:** Circulate the opinions. Then we will be in a position to judge.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Opinions should have been circulated; I am at one with Mr. More in saying that we should have had circulated to us all the information so that Members might be able to form independent views of their own. But I know that so far as Bombay is concerned, they want that cotton may not be taken out of control. At the same time, so far as food is concerned, Bombay is a deficit State. Why

did not Bombay during all these five years come up to the standard of a self-sufficient State? What has it done?

**Shri S. S. More:** We cannot help precarious rainfall.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Therefore, according to my friend, since he cannot control rainfall, he cannot make the State self-sufficient. Let him therefore agree to the only thing.....

**Shri S. S. More:** Surrender my freedom!

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Let him see how far other States have become self-sufficient. Take, for instance, Punjab. Punjab was a deficit State; but Punjab became a self-sufficient and surplus State durihg these four or five years.

**Shri S. S. More:** What is the percentage of irrigated land in Bombay and Punjab?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** When Punjab started, it was a deficit State. During all these years, Bhakra has not contributed so far to make Punjab a surplus State. Bhakra only started yesterday and even now we have not got water for our lands. At the same time, due to other matters, due to the industry of Punjabis and State efforts, Punjab became self-sufficient.

**An. Hon. Member:** What are the other matters?

**Mr. Chairman:** May I request the hon. Member to avoid these cross-arguments?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am greatful to you for the advice you have given me. It would be better if that advice was given to other Members because I cannot be so discourteous as not to reply if they put questions. I will be brief and I will not answer any of these interjections.

I was submitting that so far as the question of controls is concerned, I do not foresee that in the future these controls will not be in existence in India for the coming at least fifteen or twenty years.

[SHRI PATASKAR *in the Chair*]

I was submitting that I am anxious, at the same time, that some sort of independence should be secured to the States. It can be worked like this. In regard to certain matters, especially production, the powers of the Centre and the States can be so distributed by convention that the States, for instance, can be given a fair amount of power in regard to production. So far as distribution and price control are concerned, I cannot see how the States can be given these powers for a long time.

There is State patriotism. Supposing we produce wheat in the Punjab. We would rather like that the price of wheat is so fixed that we may be able to get as much as possible from the rest of the States to whom we supply wheat. Similarly, cloth etc. Unless cloth is controlled, it would be very difficult for the rest of India except Bombay and Ahmedabad to get all the cloth they want at reasonable prices, if Bombay did not want that the prices should be controlled. Bombay does not produce all the cotton it requires. Our country is so circumstanced that we should like the Centre to exercise these powers for the benefit of the whole country.

Reference was made to article 263 of the Constitution. I have read this article and I find that there is nothing in that article which has got any bearing on the question of any price control or other control. As a matter of fact, it refers to some other things.

**Shri S. S. More:** It has reference to co-ordination.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** It has reference to co-ordination in respect of other matters. So far as these things are concerned, we have been habituated to an economy for the last

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

five or six years that the Centre has been managing these affairs for us and has been managing it in a very satisfactory manner. I cannot think of the situation when all the States have all the powers enjoyed by the Centre. What would happen? Nothing but chaos, nothing but destruction and nothing but unstability and dissatisfaction would have resulted if the Centre had not exercised these powers. We know how powers are exercised in the different States. We find in the Centre a much better atmosphere, where everything is heard, debated upon and decided on reasonable grounds.

**Shri Raghavachari:** There are also other Legislatures where everything is being done democratically.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am very glad that an hon. Member from Madras has this feeling. I come from the Punjab and I know how things are being done there and what things are taking place there. We know what is happening in our own State Legislatures. I am very glad that we have a friend who is satisfied with what is happening in Madras. When we hear of troubles in Madras, Madhya Pradesh and other States.....

**Shri S. S. More:** Are there no quarrels in the Centre?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** There is nothing.

**Shri S. S. More:** What does Shri Giri's resignation indicate?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** It does not indicate anything except that Shri Giri is a very honourable man.

The Chair might ask my friends not to disturb me so that I can come to the end of my argument.

My conclusion is this. I am anxious that so far as the Constituent Assembly is concerned, its wishes may be respected to a certain extent. I am anxious that the principle propounded by Mr. Asoka Mehta may be given effect to. I am also anxious that Mr. More's desire that the States should have some sort of independence may also be given effect to. But, how effect can be given to it is a matter of slow growth, a matter of convention between the States and the Centre. I would like that in future years, if we pass this amendment, things should establish themselves in such a manner that a convention may grow that in certain respects the States may get the independence desired.

So far as planning is concerned, so far as economy is concerned, so far as the present circumstances are concerned, I do not see any escape from the fact that we should make this item a concurrent one. The only alternative is that we make it a central one and by the exercise of the powers of delegation States may function in future. Because the Centre has been utilising these powers satisfactorily and the Centre shall have to utilise these powers if the economy of the whole of India is to be controlled and rightly controlled. I am clearly of the view that these subjects be made concurrent.

**Shri Frank Anthony** (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the motion by the hon. Minister. I feel—I say it with respect—that some of my hon. colleagues in this House have made unnecessarily heavy weather of this amendment. The line has been taken by some that the Constitution should be invested with a certain amount of sanctity and that, as such, we must not tinker with it lightly or constantly. I am prepared to accept the validity of the proposition but not in a general way. I am not prepared to accept the proposition that the Constitution, as a whole, is a sacred and inviolable document. I do say this that certain parts of the Constitution must be regarded by us as sacred and inviolable.

So far as the fundamental rights are concerned, so far as the categorical rights which we have agreed to

certain individuals are concerned, which we have given to certain sections of the people after careful and prolonged consideration, these rights must be regarded as sacred and inviolable. If there was an attempt to tamper with the fundamental rights, the rights categorically given to certain sections of the people or even to individuals, I would resist that attempt and stigmatise it as nothing short of political vandalism, if not downright treachery.

But, Sir, I feel that when we come to a question—as in this case—of administrative needs or even administrative exigencies, these considerations cannot possibly apply. Some of my hon. friends—I listened to them when they spoke and I do not know whether the hon. Minister listened to them, but he will get a cue from me as to how he should reply to some of their arguments—argued as if the States have been given fundamental rights. As a matter of fact, I have myself observed that some of the States behave as if they have been given fundamental rights under the Constitution. I have also observed that some of them like the Bombay State go further and behave as if they have been given devine rights. As I have said, when it comes purely to considerations of administrative exigencies and the needs of the country as a whole, I for one would not hesitate to amend the Constitution as and when occasion arises and as often as that occasion may arise.

It was also stated by some of our legal pandits and others—I do not know why—that we have a federal Constitution. My friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava made a reference to this. I do not know what the implication of that reference was. That by itself means nothing one way or the other. There are federal structures and federal structures as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has pointed out. Our federal structure has a definite unitary bias. Even the Federation which the American Constitution has is different in a radical kind of way. The residuary powers under the American Constitution were not left with the Centre; they were left with the States and even there what has happened? In the interests of national strength, in the interests of national cohesion, by judicial interpretation, more and more a unitary bias has been given to what was never intended to be a federal structure with a unitary bias. But, as my hon. friend has pointed out, here the framers of the Constitution have deliberately given this unitary bias to our federal structure. They have deliberately left all the residuary powers in the hands of the Centre and I say the intention was this. Wherever and whenever the interests of the country were concerned, it was intended that the Centre should put in motion and should interpose its authority to put in motion centripetal forces. It was never intended that this Constitution of ours with this over-riding unitary bias should ever be interpreted in such a way that we should have increasingly centrifugal forces or increasing authority granted to the States. That was never the intention either of the Constitution or of the framers of the Constitution.

I say this—and when I say this, I hope my friends will not take umbrage at it—that we are inclined to be rather impractical people. We are inclined to be overborne by slogans and cliches. I find this cliche of decentralisation particularly unacceptable to me. I believe that this was something which was perpetrated many years ago, perhaps propounded in a political vote-catching atmosphere. But my own feeling is—and it is my humble opinion—that every hostage given to decentralisation under the conditions which prevail in the country today, means a hostage given to disintegration. I would encourage the hon. Commerce Minister—but he does not seem to want any encouragement—not only in the case of essential commodities, but—and this should be accepted as a thesis of Government policy—whenever it is considered essential in the larger interests

[Shri Frank Anthony]

of the country to interpose the authority of the Centre wherever it is necessary. I make this assertion and I know my friend, Mr. More and other issue with me, but I do not think anybody is in a position to question this. I say that 90 per cent. of the administrative ills from which this country is suffering today is due to....

**Shri S. S. More:** Due to the concentration of power at the Centre.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Not to that, but to the unequal, halting and inapt administrations of your different States. That is what your administrative ills are due to.

**Shri S. S. More:** You follow the British argument.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** My friend is always indulging in cliches. They try to damn rational arguments by stigmatising them as British or foreign or as exotic. I am thinking in practical terms and what has happened and what is happening today. My friend, Pandit Bhargava pointed illustrations to us. What have the State Governments shown? They have shown, by and large, their incapacity to think in the larger and national terms of the country. We saw this and it was a demoralising spectacle—the Commerce Minister may not choose to use this illustration—but what did we see with regard to the food problem? It was demoralising spectacle. We saw States entering into competition with one another, almost cut-throat competition, each State trying to overpitch its claim, or one State over-stating its claim in the matter of its actual requirements and another State understating its capacity in the matter of procurement. We are asked in a mood of utopian abandonment to believe that if we indulge in the cliche of decentralisation that it is some kind of panacea, decentralisation to the various State Governments, decentralisation to the *panchayats*, with their utter incompetence, will create a garden of Eden in this country. I do not accept these cliches in the face of facts. I do not know whether my interpretation of the Constitution is correct, but I have sought to look at some of the provisions and the cognate or related provisions to entry 33, and I cannot find a single reason as to why anybody can take exception to this as being contrary to the intention of the framers of the Constitution. Perhaps only article 369 was looked at and it was argued conversely. Article 369 says that this authority should vest in the Centre for a period of five years and it is argued that, therefore, conversely at the end of five years, this authority should not vest. I believe that is not an acceptable proposition. I have looked at entry 52—perhaps the Minister has not seen it—in the First List, which says "Industries, the control of which by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest". Any industry under this, if it is declared by Parliament to be expedient, comes, according to my reading, under the control of the Union. As soon as Parliament expresses its opinion that it is expedient that a particular industry should come within the control of Parliament, then that has to be read conjointly with the second part of entry 33 in List III, which means that automatically it is transferred to the Concurrent List. The intention of the framers of the Constitution is to be found in this particular entry. It is not only untenable but preposterous to suggest that the framers of the Constitution purported or attempted to legislate for every exigency or contingency with regard to every industry in the country. Here was an overriding power given to Parliament to declare any industry as being expedient to be brought within the control of the Union. My own reading is that once that is done, automatically that particular industry should come in the Concurrent List, subject of course to the majority vote of the House. As a matter of fact, I find that the provision in article 368 for getting the consent of the States is

inconsistent with this provision, because my own reading is that the framers of the Constitution intended that as soon as Parliament consider any industry to be in such a condition that control by the Union would be expedient, then immediately it would attract the provision contained in entry 33 in List III and it would automatically, in terms of entries 26 and 27 of List II, be part of the Concurrent List. That, to my mind, was the scheme of the intention of the framers of the Constitution and I think it is absolutely untenable and preposterous to suggest that the framers of the Constitution did intend to exhaust the list of industries and demarcate finally and for all time the respective spheres of authority of the Centre and the State Government.

**Shri S. S. More:** Why this proviso to article 368?

**Shri Frank Anthony:** That is my difficulty. I am finding it difficult as a lawyer to reconcile this. I say that the overriding intention is clear. We are not endowed with prophetic or divine powers and we find that this overriding power must be given in the case of industries, the control of which by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest. That is, Parliament declares any industry, then immediately in terms of entry 33, it comes into the Concurrent List. My own reading is that that should have been sufficient to have given us authority to transfer these industries from the State List to the Concurrent List. I find some conflict with regard to this proviso requiring the ratification of the States, but even if we do concede this to that extent we have to respect article 368. We may respect it and require the consent of the necessary number of States. If you read the commentaries, you will find that there is no semblance of an authority for the contention that the framers of the Constitution never intended to attract the provision in entry 33.

**Shri Raghavachari:** Does the hon. Member think that foodstuffs and cattle fodder come under entry 52?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Cattle is not mentioned but stock cattle is mentioned in this article and so fodder does not necessarily come in.

**Shri S. S. More:** Fodder goes with cattle. (*Interruptions*).

**Shri Sadhan Gupta** (Calcutta South-East): In considering this Bill, I do not proceed on the basis that the Constitution is inviolate and that it should never be touched. There I agree with Mr. Frank Anthony, and as a matter of fact, I go even beyond him, because I do not even agree that the fundamental rights conferred are necessarily inviolate. Under the Constitution we have the fundamental right not only of various freedoms, not only of equality, but we have the fundamental right of being detained by preventive detention, and we have the fundamental right to pay compensation, however unable we are to pay compensation and however necessary it may be, in the interests of the country, to take over property without compensation. It is in fact my very charge against the Minister that other amendments to the Constitution might have been brought, amendments which are very necessary in the interests of the country, amendments which would remove the obstacle that has been created by the compensation provisions towards taking our country along the broad road of progress, amendments which will enable us to release our economy from the vicious grip of foreign and particularly. British industrialists and from the vicious grip which landlords have had on the agrarian economy. On the other hand, we are forced to pay compensation to the British industrialists if we want to take over their undertakings. We are forced to pay compensation to the big landlords if we want to take over their lands for distribution to the peasantry; and that way it is ensured that we will never find the money for the compensation and if we do find the money for the compensation, we will ruin our peasantry, we will ruin our people, in the process.

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

I have not the time nor the inclination, in connection with this Bill, to go into the details of that thing. It is only sufficient to say that if we want rapid industrialisation of the country, if we want to emancipate our agrarian economy from the position where productivity cannot be increased, if we want to solve the unemployment problem, and, in a word, if we want to create a situation in which every person in the country will be assured a square meal a day, will be assured that he will have enough of the wherewithal to clothe himself and his family in a manner at least remotely resembling respectability,—if we have to ensure that situation—there is no escaping the fact that we will have to release our economy from the grip of British capital and from the grip of landlords. Now, we cannot do that without compensation, and an amendment should have been brought forward in that respect.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I draw the attention of the hon. Member—I have repeatedly explained—to the fact that only those items on which the Constitution has applicability here, need be referred to?

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** I have finished that part. Anyway, I say that I am prepared to treat every provision of the Constitution on its merits, and on that basis, on sheer merits alone, I am prepared to consider whether a particular provision should be treated as inviolate or should be amended. Now, on the basis of merits alone, I voice my emphatic opposition to the Bill. The hon. Minister, while moving his motion, has made this point a reason for bringing in the Bill, namely, the fact that the period prescribed by Article 369 is going to expire, and therefore, apparently Government will be very helpless to centrally control the articles mentioned therein. I do not propose to deal, at this stage, with the wisdom or unwisdom of Central control *versus* State control. I do not propose to go into a dissertation over what should be centrally controlled, how much should be Centrally controlled and how much should be State-controlled. But one thing is clear. We are for the autonomy of the States; we do not have that contempt for autonomy on the grounds propounded by Shri Frank Anthony, because we think that it is not reasonable. We cannot consider the question of State autonomy from the point of view of the worthiness of the State Governments or the Central Government, for the simple reason that there is no guarantee, either that the Central Government will remain as worthy as it is for eternity or whether the State Governments will remain what they are for eternity. It depends on the kind of people that administer Government; and as long as this kind of a ruling class, this kind of society exists, as long as the State and the Central Governments continue to be formed under this kind of situation, it is only a guarantee that every Government, whether State or Central, will have more or less corruption. Therefore, I do not look at the question of controls in the light of State *versus* Central powers, from the point of view of corruption. The only way to look at it is to realise that there is a large amount of diversity in India and in order to satisfy the aspirations of such diverse elements, the largest measure of autonomy should be provided, and the autonomy should not be lightly interfered with. But that is being done in the name of the expiration of the period prescribed in Article 369. Let us see how this particular argument is valid. Why was Article 369 enacted? Not for the purpose of giving the Centre the power to control those articles, but to give that power only for a transitional period. The five year period which the Article mentioned was only an estimate of a period by which the new set-up was supposed to come into being. Let us not forget that whether Article 369 is there or not, the Centre

has power, subject to certain conditions, to enact laws not only in regard to foodstuffs or oil-seeds or oil-cakes or raw jute, but in regard to anything under the sun, provided the conditions prescribed by Article 369 are fulfilled. The Council of States may, by a resolution, declare that something is of national importance, and the Central Government may make any law under the sun in order to exercise control over that matter. Therefore, the Central Government has the fullest powers. Why was Article 369 enacted? It was enacted for the simple reason that when the Constitution came into force, there was no Council of States and nothing to enable the Central Government to exercise controlling powers. There was nothing to enable the Central Parliament to exercise law-making powers if something should become of national importance. If you look through the transitional provision, you will find that it has been stated that the Provisional Parliament would do the duty of the present Parliament. So many other transitional provisions have been made, but there is no provision to say that this particular body will do the duty of the Council of States. Therefore, as the Central Government had no weapon to control anything of national importance, as the Parliament had no way of legislating upon something of national importance, Article 369 laid it down that for five years, which obviously was the time estimated for the completion of the elections for the formation of the two Houses of Parliament, and so forth, there should be power vested in the Central Government, to control certain duties, and there should be the power in the Provisional Parliament to legislate on certain matters which were thought to be of national importance and which were thought to continue to be of national importance for some time.

1 P.M.

I do not propose to go, at this stage, into the wisdom or un-wisdom of enumerating these things. But that is what the Constituent Assembly considered and that is why article 369 was enacted. Now, if the time limit has expired. Government has nothing to fear. It has only to submit a resolution before the Council of States, have it debated for 2, 3 or 4 hours and then everything will be all right. They will have the power. What is the objection in taking that House into confidence? Why make an amendment which will for eternity deprive the States of the exclusive powers which they, today, have? Why should you make an amendment when you have deliberately framed a certain Constitution? You have deliberately given certain powers to the States; you deliberately recognised the need for granting autonomy in respect of these powers. Then why do you now make an amendment which will eternally take away that exclusive power of the States and make it subject to the interference of the Centre eternally?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has brought out an argument, a very ingenious argument, that it is necessary in the interest of planning; that we will continue to have plans and therefore, it will be necessary to continue control on commodities. I am not very much enthused by these plannings. We know that as long as this Government remains, as long as this social structure remains, where the vicious group of foreign capital has its strong grip, where landlords cannot be deprived except by compensation although they had more than realised their share by the exploitation of the people—as long as this state of affairs remains, planning can never radically improve the situation in the country. As far as the merits are concerned, I would not agree to part with the State's autonomy in the interest of planning by this Government.

Let us examine the question of planning. It is true and it may be necessary to plan and plan again and again; a second, third or fourth five year plans may be necessary. But

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

what is the object of planning. The object of planning is that we should be self-sufficient in all things; we should plan in such a way that it would be possible for us to gradually wipe out our deficits in things we are short of today and for that reason we should not depend upon planning eternally. The First Five Year Plan might cure some of the ills and some of the shortages. The Second Five Year Plan might cure some other shortages; the third may make the country self-sufficient in everything; the fourth may make the country more than self-sufficient. This is the way a plan is expected to progress. Therefore, when deficits are wiped out the need for Central control evaporates. I would have understood that argument although I would not have accepted it.

If it was suggested that in the interest of planning temporary provisions are being made, temporary expedient is being adopted, I could have understood it. But, No. It is being adopted as a permanent measure; it is being imported into the Constitution eternally as long as this Constitution is going to last. That is why I cannot appreciate the argument which is certainly not the argument of the Government. If the Government were aware of such an argument, if the Government thought that planning was the real genesis of this amendment, Government would have come with that argument before Pandit Bhargava could think of it.

He said that at the time when the Constitution was framed there was no idea of planning. I join issue with him. The idea of planning was with the Congress ever since 1938 when the National Planning Committee was set up with Prime Minister himself as its President. Planning has been the pet idea of the Congress ever since. Planning was in the air when the Constitution was framed. You will remember that there was the Tata Birla Plan and this plan and that plan, the Post-war Reconstruction Plans and every thing of that kind. Therefore, it could not be suggested that the framers of the Constitution were not aware of planning.

These are the grounds on which I oppose this amendment. This amendment is entirely uncalled for. There are many amendments which might have been brought but which had not been brought. This amendment only needlessly interferes with the powers of the State legislatures; these were given deliberately to the State legislatures by the framers of the Constitution, given deliberately with the background of all the experience, the experience in the control of every one of the articles mentioned in the Bill and particularly with the experience of the control of foodstuffs behind them, with the experience of the huge famine in Bengal and with the experience of chronic shortage at the time when the Constitution was being framed and in the background of the Prime Minister's then declaration that the food problem must be treated on a war footing and must be solved by 1951. Therefore, there is no sense in arguing that these things were not thought of and it was only inadvertently that this important power was conferred on the States. So, sir, I would strongly oppose this amendment and request the House to reject it altogether.

**Mr. Chairman:** How much time will the hon. Minister take for his reply?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** The Chair may call me at 1-30.

**Mr. Chairman:** We have to close this discussion at 1.55.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I will try to finish in about 20-25 minutes.

**Shri C. C. Shah** (Gohilwad-Sorath): Mr. Chairman this Bill is in a way a simple measure in that it seeks to amend only one entry in List III of

Schedule 7. No doubt it is an amendment of the Constitution technically speaking and to that extent it is an important measure. But comparatively speaking, I submit that this amendment is of a very minor character. Yet my hon. friend, Mr. Asoka Mehta thought that this Bill goes to the very heart of our Constitution in that it seeks to disturb the distribution of powers between the States and the Centre. But that distribution is already there and the disturbance now sought to be made by this is, I say, comparatively of a minor character. Those who have opposed this Bill have done so on the ground that it is an encroachment by the Centre upon the powers of the States and they have brought in the name of State autonomy.

It is relevant to point out that the States were consulted and except only one State which has opposed, all have agreed. Secondly, as was rightly pointed out by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, under article 368, the States will have another opportunity of fully considering this Bill as passed by this House and it is only when one half of the States—Parts A and B States—ratify this measure, this will become effective. Therefore, the States were consulted both before introducing this Bill and again when the Bill is passed they will be consulted; and the legislatures of each of these States will be called upon to ratify this Bill. If one half of them is not prepared to accept it, it will not become effective. Therefore I presume the States will take care of themselves completely. Yet it is also our duty to consider whether this is such an encroachment upon the powers of the States that we should not pass this measure at all or that the Parliament should not call upon the States to ratify this measure.

I respectfully submit that the opposition to this Bill is based upon a certain misconception of the character of our Constitution. It is no doubt in name federal, but it is in a sense more unitary than federal, and it is none of that type of federal Constitutions where the powers are so completely defined that there is no occasion for either one encroaching upon the other. In fact those who talked of State autonomy and the powers of the States presumed as if independent sovereign States had come together to form a Federation and have delegated certain of their own powers to the Federation. This is an entirely wrong conception, I submit. If we look briefly at the history of how this Constitution came to be written, or the manner in which the whole country was governed until this Constitution was framed, we will find that we never had a Federal Constitution in that manner. It was only at the Round Table Conference that the idea of a Federation came into being when the Princes agreed to come into the Federation, only on certain conditions, namely, if the Federation had limited powers. The result was the Federal Act of 1935. That Federation never materialised, and we continued to be governed in the way of a unitary government with devolution of powers to the States as envisaged by the 1919 Act.

We began to frame this Constitution in 1946. That was a time when the Muslim League and the Princes were strongly opposed to giving the Centre more power than they agreed to, namely on three limited subjects, that is, Defence Communications and Foreign Affairs, and no more, and they wanted that all the residuary powers should remain with the States.

We began in 1946 under that situation. The partition of the country entirely changed the whole situation. The opposition of the Muslim League was no longer there. And the reasons which induced us to create a weak Centre with very limited powers, no longer existed. And therefore, as you will see from the debates of the Constituent Assembly itself, gradually the conception of a Federation with very limited powers

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gave place to a conception of a Centre which had unlimited powers and which was very strong and which was intended to be strong and powerful.

The opposition of the Indian States was overcome by the gradual absorption of all the Indian States, and that opposition also no longer remained.

Therefore, though we had started on a journey which must result in a Constitution of this character, there were many even at that time who thought that we should have a unitary Constitution rather than a federal one. Therefore, all those conceptions of State autonomy and States having unlimited powers save those that are delegated to the federation do not come into the picture in considering a Constitution of this nature. We have deliberately embarked upon an experiment of a Constitution in which we want that the Centre should be as strong as possible, and we have therefore deliberately given the Centre as many powers as possible and purposely left all residuary powers with the Centre. I therefore submit that the idea of State autonomy or the States' powers being encroached upon is a totally wrong approach, and it is desirable that we should disabuse our mind of that kind of approach. Undoubtedly before independence we talked of provincial autonomy. We asked for provincial autonomy. The reason was that we did not at that time hope to receive or get real and effective power at the Centre. But we wanted to get some power somewhere and therefore we asked for provincial autonomy. But if we had any hope of getting real power at the Centre itself, then there was no occasion to ask for provincial autonomy. Therefore those ideas of provincial autonomy or State autonomy which were in a different context altogether before Independence, no longer exist today. And the States are not in any manner independent or sovereign States as we think of them in federal Constitutions of other States. But even in other States where there are federal Constitutions, where even residuary powers are left with the States and not with the Centre, experience and history has shown that gradually it is the Centre which becomes more powerful rather than the States. And in the world we live today that is inevitable. Considering both the internal and the international situation, no State or Government can exist, I submit, which has a weak Centre which cannot exercise all the powers of a State whenever it is called upon and it is necessary to do so. I mean it may be very good to talk of decentralisation. The theoretical idea is very good, that we should have decentralisation. But in the situation existing today I think it will be wrong, in the name of decentralisation, to say that we should have a weak Centre which cannot come to the rescue of the country whenever it becomes necessary so to do.

Sales tax, for instance, is a classic example. My friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava referred to it.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us not have a discussion as to the nature of our Constitution.

**Shri C. C. Shah:** That is the real opposition, that the powers of the State are being encroached upon by the Centre.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is unitary according to some. According to some it is federal. But probably it is none of the two.

**Shri C. C. Shah:** Well, I have done with that part of the argument. I was speaking about sales tax which is a classic example, of what chaotic conditions can arise when a subject which essentially is Central and which must be centrally dealt with is left to the States. The judgment of the Supreme Court has created a situation which is in my opinion intolerable. The Centre, I believe,

is trying its best to request the States to fall in line with a uniform policy. But the Centre either is helpless or does not want to be firm. But I do submit that this is an occasion when the matter must be expeditiously and calmly considered, because the entire business community is harassed and worried about the manner in which sales tax is recovered by various States. I say that is an illustration of the kind of situation that can arise when things which are essentially Central or of an all-India nature are left to the States.

A reference was made to article 249, both by Shri Asoka Mehta and the last speaker, as to why advantage was not taken of article 249. If you refer to that article, it has a very limited application. The Rajya Sabha can pass a resolution, and that resolution has got to be renewed year after year if any legislation passed in pursuance of that resolution has got to be continued. That procedure is both cumbersome and unsatisfactory as we have found, for example, in regard to the Supplies and Prices Control Act, where it has got to be renewed year after year. We are considering a situation which can be of a permanent character. You can never say when in regard to a particular commodity a situation will arise which will need an all-India legislation. You can never say how long that kind of all-India legislation will be necessary. You can never say which is the commodity in respect of which that legislation will be necessary. All that you can provide is to give power to the Centre to legislate whenever it becomes necessary in respect of essential commodities. which will be a legislation of a permanent character and which will not require to be renewed year after year. Article 249 therefore cannot help.

Mr Asoka Mehta complained that no case had been made out for this amendment or for the Centre taking this power.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh** (Hazaribagh West): He is right.



**Shri C. C. Shah:** Well, I will presently point out that he is not right. I do not know whether he has taken the trouble to read the report of the Commodity Controls Committee. The hon. Minister referred to it, and in order not to take the time of the House, he referred us to certain paragraphs of that report which, he said, will repay amply if we peruse them. I do not want to take up the time of the House myself by reading these paragraphs. But I wish to point out that it was only after a competent committee set up to examine the legislation in respect of essential commodities had made a report, and on the recommendation of that committee, that Government has brought forward this piece of legislation. Because, that Committee, after careful examination, made out a complete case for a Central legislation in respect of essential commodities. That Committee also considered article 249. That Committee also considered the desirability of leaving the powers with the States, and having considered all those alternatives the Committee recommended, not only that entry 33 should be amended but it went to the length of saying that entries 26 and 27 in List II, which gave limited powers to the States, must be deleted and all these powers should be left to the Centre. In the case of raw jute and raw cotton, the hon. Minister himself explained at great length the reasons why they were being included. Only in the case of foodstuffs, my hon. friend Shri Asoka Mehta raised an argument. He said that since the food situation was easing, there was no occasion for the Centre to take these powers. One can never say what the food situation will be hereafter. Even when the States are affected by flood and famine, it is the Centre which is able to help them. Nobody can say what our plight would have been if the Centre had not the powers to deal with the situation in the manner it has dealt with it in the last 5 or 6 years after Independence. It is quite clear that there is an urgent necessity for an amendment of this entry. The neces-

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sity of that amendment will become evident if we read entries 26 and 27 of List II and entries 33 and 34 of List III together, entries 26 and 27 of List II are subject to entry No. 33 in List III. There may arise a certain conflict between the exercise of these powers by the States for intra-State trade and commerce and inter-state trade and commerce in these commodities. Even under article 286, when sales-tax was levied, it was provided that sales-tax could be levied only for intra-State transactions, but not for inter-State transactions. If I may say so, the interpretation which we have got from the Supreme Court creates a chaotic situation. Similarly, if any legislation is undertaken by the States under entries 26 and 27 of List II and the Centre undertakes legislation under entry 33 of List III, obviously a kind of conflict may arise. Under entries 52 and 54 of List I, in respect of industries which are declared by Parliament to be industries under the control of the Union, that power is already there with the Centre. In respect of agricultural commodities which are essential commodities and which are of all-India character and importance, the Centre has not got that power today. It is therefore necessary that entry 33 in List III should be amended in order to bring it in line with entries 52 and 54 of List I. I therefore submit that this Bill, though it is an amendment of the Constitution, the amendment is of a minor character and it is both essential and necessary. I therefore support the Bill.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay** (Pratapgarh Distt.—East): As Shri C. C. Shah just now said, really this measure has attracted much attention of this House because this Bill is described as an amendment of the Constitution. But, really we have to see as to what we are going to do by this amendment.

Two points of argument have been advanced by our friends here. The reply given to the first argument by Shri C. C. Shah is quite complete. As regards the other aspect, my submission is this. It has been said that there is already power in the Constitution under which the Centre can legislate in respect of subjects in which there is an apprehension that the Centre has not got the power. There is no doubt that there are certain provisions by which the Centre has got the power to legislate. We find entry 33 says:

> "Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of, the products of industries where the control of such industries by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest."

So, the Centre has got the power to legislate, no doubt. But, in all such cases where the Centre has got powers, they relate only to industries. They do not relate to certain very important commodities which will not be covered by these provisions. Those commodities are really the commodities which have been mentioned in this amending Bill. We have got foodstuffs. We cannot say that foodstuffs are covered by any of the provisions in the Constitution under which the Centre has got the power to legislate. Even so, in the case of raw materials which are produced not by industry, but by agriculture, it will not be possible for the Centre to legislate, if we do not empower the Centre by this Amending Bill. It is not a new thing that we are going to give to the Centre. The Centre has had this power for the last five years. If now the amendment is not made, that power will disappear. The other measures that could be undertaken by the Centre under the provisions in the Constitution would not cover certain cases and therefore it becomes absolutely necessary that at least in these cases, this amendment should be made. As I said in the beginning, it is considered that this is an amendment to the Constitution and therefore, the House seems to think that we are going to do something very

important and something which we should not ordinarily do. I also agree that ordinarily, there should be no amendment of the Constitution. It is not a new thing that we are going to do. There is already provision, there is already power with the Centre under article 369. As the hon. Minister said yesterday, at the time when these provisions were being made, there was a certain section of the House which felt that this provision should have been made for 15 years or a longer period. Of course, it was considered then that it may not be permanently necessary. We find now that it is necessary that there should be a permanent provision for the Centre to legislate in respect of important commodities and there cannot be any commodity more important than foodstuffs. I am sure that foodstuffs cannot be covered by the powers that there are at present which empower the Centre to legislate in respect of all important commodities. My submission is that if not for anything else, for this reason that there are a number of commodities which will not be covered and for which power to the Centre is necessary, it is absolutely necessary that this amendment of the Constitution is made. Therefore, I support this amendment.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: I have listened with great attention to the speeches made by the hon. Members. I am grateful to those hon. Members Shri Tulsidas, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Frank Anthony, Shri C. C. Shah and Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay, not merely for the support that they have given, but also for elucidating the points which have been raised by other hon. Members and setting the doubts at rest.

I must at once say that the opposition to this measure, simple as it is, has been directed largely from the point of view that it is the duty of the opposition to oppose. I have no quarrel with them. In fact, if I were in their position—I was in the opposition some years back and I had then taken every opportunity of opposing anything that the Government brought.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta**: Do you regret it?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: I do not regret it any more than I regret my hon. friend interrupting me. We cannot afford to indulge in regrets these days. The life that one lives is lived as a thing of the past. We look to the future, sometimes, some of us look to a future which we probably feel is permanent and real as against what it is today—unreal and extremely evanescent—but values are different in regard to those who are on this side and those who are on that side of the House.

I am very glad that Mr. Sadhan Gupta interrupted me because he has helped me more or less to take up the thread of the argument that he used—an argument which began one way and ended in another way. Mr. Sadhan Gupta had no use for this amendment, but at the same time, he felt amendments were not wrong. So, there is a vital difference of opinion between Mr. Vallatharas and Mr. Asoka Mehta and Mr. Sadhan Gupta, as it ought to be, I think. After all, Mr. Sadhan Gupta's approach to this problem of a Constitution, of a fundamental law, is something totally different from the approach that Mr. Asoka Mehta makes, because Mr. Asoka Mehta believes in a fundamental law. He believes in a democratic method of doing things. He believes in a democratic method of adjusting the rights of persons, adjusting inequalities of income and status. Mr. Sadhan Gupta does not believe in that. He believes in a totalitarian dictatorship which just does what it wants for a purpose which it believes to be right. I fully give Mr. Sadhan Gupta the credit of believing what he thinks as being right, but he believes that what he thinks is right should be believed by everybody else; if they do not believe it, they should be forced to believe it. I can quite understand that Mr. Sadhan Gupta does not want a fundamental law, and it is a thing which I am able to appreciate, but I am not able to approve of his sentiments. Well, it is an off-shoot of the Marxian outlook

devoid of all the niceties of intellectual thought behind Marxian reasoning but represented by a trust of that ideology which is ruthless and which wants to impose its right and will upon an obedient set of people. Well, I have no quarrel with Mr. Sadhan Gupta. He is perfectly entitled to preach his ideology and that is what he is here for. And this is a valuable forum and he ought to use it to the best of his ability and I am very glad to see he is using it. The only trouble is Mr. Sadhan Gupta has rather involved himself in an argument which began one way. He said: "I do not mind the amendment. In fact, I want you to bring more amendments. Why do you not bring an amendment to do away with fundamental rights, so that perhaps people can be put in prison without trial or, perhaps, people's property can be taken away without any compensation whatever." Yes, that is a line of reasoning which, as I have said, I can appreciate, but do not necessarily approve of. But, I must say in all humility that Mr. Sadhan Gupta made a very good speech. I remember a simile used in another legislative forum about seventeen, eighteen years back in regard to a speech made by a man who is a very well-known speaker, the late Rt. hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. My friend Rajaji described that speech as being something which is like a lady's silk umbrella which does not protect the user against sun, wind or rain. Mr. Sadhan Gupta's arguments help nobody here. It is an intellectual exercise, perhaps brilliant, perhaps not, but nevertheless, it did not carry us any further. It did not help Mr. Asoka Mehta who opposed the Bill. It did not help me here who wants the Bill to be accepted by this House. Well, so far for Mr. Sadhan Gupta.

Mr. Vallatharas is not here. He comes from my part of the country and we have some pretensions to intellectualism, and the intellectual, therefore, must provide a dilatory motion and provide arguments for it, even if there is no purpose behind it all. Well, he said something about the being salubrious or salutary provisions of the constitution or something like that, but about much of what he said I do not think he had any conviction himself. So, I do not think there is any point which I can pick out from argument, even though I read his speech over again this morning, for which I had to provide an answer, excepting that whatever this Government does is wrong. I quite concede that ought to be his line of reasoning.

I take up Mr. Asoka Mehta's point. Mr. Asoka Mehta believes in the sanctity of the Constitution. He thinks the Constitution should not be amended lightly. I say "amen". I believe in the sanctity of the Constitution because I had something to do with it. Maybe as Mr. More would have it I was a cook, maybe I was a Cook's matey, I was a water carrier, it might be I have been anything which the fertile imagination of the indefatigable and irrepressible Mr. More can devise. Nevertheless I had something to do with it. I believe with Mr. Asoka Mehta that the Constitution is sacred, that the fundamental law under the Constitution must be protected, that we who are Members of this Parliament, who have taken an oath to protect the Constitution, must even be prepared to shed our life-blood for it. I have no quarrel with him, but he thought we were dealing with this matter rather lightly. That is where I rather expected a person like Mr. Mehta to give some more thought to it, than to dismiss an attempt made by us in all seriousness—the number of days we have devoted to the consideration of the recommendations of the Commodity Controls Committee, consideration of the replies from the various Governments, and also envisaging the conditions that will come into being if we do not have our Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act in regard to the control of the various commodities which are now enumerated in this particular Bill.

Well, I think, my hon. friend Mr. C. C. Shah pointed out that the recommendations of the Commodities Control Committee were recommendations made in all seriousness after interviewing and discussing the matter with representatives of various State Governments, with the Members of the Planning Commission, with other individuals concerned who are affected by control. The first of their recommendations was that not merely should the powers envisaged by article 369 be continued so far as the Central Government is concerned, but that there should be an elasticity in regard to the powers wielded by the Central Government, and therefore items 26 and 27 of List 2 should be transferred to List 3 so that if an emergency arises the Central Government can legislate about these matters. Well, they probably felt that proposal might not be accepted, and suggested an alteration of item 33 of List 3. I for one, even in the days when we were framing the Constitution had felt that the exclusive field in respect of legislation for the Union and for the States must be kept as far as possible intact. I was one of those who never believed in the twilight zone like the concurrent powers. The exhaustive Concurrent List was devised by the Government of India Act, 1935, arising out of the experience gained by the working of the Constitutions in Canada and Australia where the imprecise definition of the concurrent field has created a lot of litigation. The Government of India Act sought to define the concurrent field. I think we went a little further than the Government of India Act in making that definition very precise.

I would ask hon. Members to look into the provisions of article 73 and the proviso to clause (1).

Article 73 says:

"Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive power of the Union shall extend—

(a) to the matter with respect to which Parliament has power to make laws; and

(b) to the exercise of such rights, authority and jurisdiction as are exercisable by the Government of India by virtue of any treaty or agreement:"

The proviso says:

"Provided that the executive power referred to in sub-clause (a) shall not, save as expressly provided in this Constitution or in any law made by Parliament, extend in any State specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule to matters with respect to which the Legislature of the State has also power to make laws."

So, in order to resolve the conflicts as much as possible, we have provided there in the proviso to article 73, clause (1), that the executive power of the Centre must be limited to those laws in which Parliament expressly says that the executive power may be taken. So, it is not a question of our enacting some laws as a result of this amendment, laws which we can enact by reason of the fact that entry 33 is now enlarged, but we have to see whether we would take the executive power as well.

I did draw attention in my introductory speech to a very wise statement made by the present Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in that discussion that we had with the Chief Ministers of the various Provinces at the time when we were drafting the Constitution, when Pantji definitely stated, well, all that the Centre can do is only to frame a skeleton law and leave, either by delegation of power or by rule-making powers, the execution of those laws in the hands of the Provinces. My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava then amply illustrated that in regard to the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, the operation of those laws, excepting in those fields where the Centre was interested, the industries in which the Centre was interested,

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was left to the Provincial Governments, and therefore, the fear that we were going to take away the direction of intra-State trade or business from the State Government was not quite correct.

Let me pose another problem here. It does not really mean that we do not have the powers, even as it is; we do not undertake this amendment, excepting perhaps in regard to foodstuffs. Even there, so far as inter-State business is concerned, article 301 provides us with the powers, if need be, for it says;

> "Subject to the other provisions of this Part, trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India shall be free."

And article 302 says:

> "Parliament may by law impose such restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse between one State and another or within any part of the territory of India as may be required in the public interest."

So, this allows Parliament to impose such restrictions on the freedom of trade as may be required in public interest.

That leads me to the reference made by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava to the original article 16 which was in the Draft Constitution, and in which a provision similar to articles 301 and 302 was sought to be put in the fundamental law of the land. We then felt that it would be needlessly inviting a lot of friction, and litigation by this clause being in the fundamental rights and I think we felt that it was much better to put it in the Chapter on trade and commerce rather than in the Chapter on fundamental rights.

If inter-State trade and commerce is to be regulated by the Centre, there is no denying that the Centre can also, to some extent, to the extent necessary for regulating inter-State trade and commerce, go into the intra-State field. The position in regard to the United States Constitution, where there is no concurrent field defined, and where the demarcation between the powers of the Central Government and the States, is left very largely to judicial decisions, is an indicative of the fact that where obligation is laid on the United States Congress to regulate inter-State trade and commerce, it does not remain there. I am quoting from Willis' *Constitutional Law*.

Willis, in page 306 of his *Constitutional Law* says:

> "When Congress may regulate intra-State commerce as an incident of inter-State commerce, and when the States may regulate inter-State commerce under either a concurrent power or the general police power is known only by the United States Supreme Court."

That is a position which we want to save. It is true that we can interfere by means of the powers vested in us under articles 301 and 302. But then you take the ultimate validity of any action, that the Central Government take, to a region where a certain amount of uncertainty devolves on it.

The other point was made by my hon. friend Shri Frank Anthony. He raised a question whether the Central Government have not got powers now under entry 52 of List I, which makes them declare any industry to be of national importance, and therefore, within the purview of the Central Government, and to that extent, subtracts from the content of entry 24 of List II, in regard to the powers enjoyed by the States. He is perfectly right, but I see no conflict in the possibility of an extension of the area of powers enjoyed by the Centre under the use of entry 52, to a provision of article 368 where, whenever a matter which is within the State List is interfered with, ratification is necessary by the States. A mere extension of powers of the Centre under entry 52 does not invoke an amendment of the Constitution, and so long

as an amendment of the Constitution is not invoked, the ratification of the States is not necessary. It may be that there is no limit to the extension of Union power under entry 52.

It is true that the coffee industry is now being regulated by the fact that under entry 52, it is declared to be a matter of national importance. The rubber industry is regulated by the fact that under entry 52, it is declared to be a matter of national importance. The tea industry is so regulated. Therefore, if it is a question of my wanting powers in regard to regulation of the sales of ginned and unginned cotton, of oils, and perhaps, oil-cakes and concentrates, well, I think, the powers that I now possess under entry 52 might be projected into the States' sphere, and I might grasp those powers. It may be that the matter will go to court, but I am fairly convinced in my mind that the incidental, ancillary, and supplemental powers that are necessary for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the Centre will see me through. But what we want here is that the area of doubt should be resolved, and so far as the Centre is concerned, in the concurrent field, the interference of the Centre is either regulatory so that an all-India statute might be observed by all the States, or in times of an emergency where the powers of the Centre in the concurrent field are more than of a regulatory nature, there is no question of the executive power being dealt with by the Centre or not because, whether this Constitution is unitary or semi-unitary, federal or semi-federal, it is quite clear that we have a precise definition in regard to the possibility of the use of the executive power by the Centre. Therefore, unless there is an emergency, there is no point in the Centre attracting that power to itself. The second factor also is that this Constitution has not provided either by implication or by judicial decisions the power enjoyed by the United States Central Government of having federal agencies right through the States. We do not have federal agencies in this country excepting for purely federal purposes. You have got the Customs Department, you have the Import Trade Control Department, you have an Income-tax Department, you have an Excise Department for purely Central purposes, but you do not have a parallel federal court, and you do not have parallel federal agencies running along with State agencies. I do claim, therefore, that the Constitution-makers have precisely defined the field in which the Centre can operate. All that we plead here is not that the powers cannot be taken by other means than by this amendment but a straightforward method of exercising these powers is the wiser one. For instance, if we levy a cess on oil mills for the purpose of keeping the Oil-seeds Committee going, we do so by means of a declaration in terms of entry 52 of List I. Well, it can be extended for other purposes, and we can also levy a cess from rice-millers, for the purpose of developing the rice industry, or for the purposes of controlling the expansion of rice mills. That could be done under the use of the powers of entry 52. It does not mean that we are without resources. But it is possible that we use those resources by interpretation, and we might be enacting a legislation which is colourable, and we do not want to do it in a matter where the needs are precisely defined, are very well-known, and have been the subject of investigation by a committee, and we are following a pattern where the Constituent Assembly had envisaged a continuance of the old Act enacted by the Interim Government, in 1946, under article 369.

The other point made by my hon. friend, Mr. Asoka Mehta, was that so many items had been mentioned in article 369; why should they have been so mentioned? Well, it is not that we were unalive to the fact at that time that we need not mention the names of articles which could be covered by legislation under item 52 or item 54 of List I. Well, it might be that the Constituent Assembly was very busy and could not go and exa-

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mine all the existing status or that the Constituent Assembly felt that the moment you took away powers under these heads, the legislation that was in operation would become inoperative and the Provisional Parliament would have no time to enact legislation under powers vested in the Centre under item 52 or 54 of List I of the Seventh Schedule. This is a matter of convenience rather than a matter of logic. So I must submit in all humility that the mere fact that article 369 covered a number of items which legitimately fell within the limits of the Union sphere does not mean that there was any thoughtlessness about it; it was a matter of convenience. Nor do I agree that the experience so gained in regard to the utilisation of the powers under article 369 should not be put before this House for more or less a permanent amendment of the Constitution within a very restricted and limited field. Hon. Members who read the items (b), (c), (d) and (e) will find that so far as (d) and (e), are concerned, they are industrial raw materials. It is not necessary for me to ask hon. Members to imagine what will happen if there is inter-provincial jealousy in respect of the industries to which they provide the raw materials. Suppose raw cotton is produced in Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh and the cotton is going to be consumed in Bombay, I will ask my hon. friend Mr. Asoka Mehta, who knows more about the textile industry than I do—after all, my experience of the textile industry has been from the top for a brief period of 2½ years whereas his experience is of over a decade. Suppose the Madhya Pradesh Government says: 'We are not going to send the cotton to Bombay?'. We in the Centre will not allow them to export; we would want them to send it to Bombay. But suppose we are faced with a situation of this nature, what about the labour situation that develops therefrom? It is a problem which he will have to share along with the Bombay Government and also the Central Government. He will, therefore, understand the logic of it, the logic of having to control the raw material of an industry which is of an all-India character where, as I said in my introductory speech, the area where the industry is situated does not coincide with the area where the raw material is produced.

Then what is the residue left in the Bill. The residue happens to be foodstuffs. I maintain in all humility that in the matter of foodstuffs, we cannot afford to gamble. It may be that tomorrow something might happen when we will probably have to reimpose controls. There is no point in flinging at my face or at the face of my colleagues here that my colleague, Shri Kidwai, feels the position all right. I think he is quite correct; he is quite correct in feeling that the position as it obtains today is all right. But there might come a time conceivably, as we do not know when floods, famines, typhoons and tidal waves occur, when there might be a food shortage in one area. We still have deficit zones and surplus zones, from one of which we have to send to the other. I think in a matter like foodstuffs, there is no use in saying 'In an emergency, use these powers; let yourself open to a suit in a court of law; to declare that your powers are not proper'. After all, in America, the New Deal was undertaken in an emergency. My hon. friend should know what happened when the courts set aside the various provisions of the New Deal. We do not want to experiment with human lives; we want to be prepared for all contingencies.

**Acharya Kripalani** (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): What about article 249?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Article 249 happens to be an article which was devised by some of us; it was taken from the Government of India Act and slightly modified. I am not particularly happy about article 249. Article 249 can only be used in the case of something that occurs temporarily. I might tell my hon. friend—he was not here then—that in the first

year that I came here, I had to continue the Supply of Goods and Prices Act under article 249. Within the earliest possible time, I said, 'No, I am not going before the House even though there will be a little inconvenience to Government'. We cannot use a temporary provision for a contingency for which we have to be prepared all the time and which might overtake us at any time. As a person who has some administrative experience, I say that article 249 will not fill the Bill. That is all I have to say for the present.

**Mr. Chairman:** Now, as already announced, the debate on this motion regarding the Bill to amend the Constitution is now concluded and I will put it to the vote at the end of the day.

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## STATEMENT *RE*: INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** With your permission, I rise to make a brief statement in regard to certain matters covered by the Bill which is being introduced by my colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, presently. This Bill is a Tariff Bill which contains several items on which duties have been raised, in some cases steeply. Some of the more important items on which duties are being raised are pencils, old newspapers, fermented liquors, woollen fabrics, wines, vacuum flasks, razor blades and playing cards. Apart from the implementation of the recommendations of the Tariff Commission, in certain cases, the immediate need for a review of the duties charged on the goods imported arose from the fact that at the recent inter-session committee of the GATT, we were able to secure certain relaxations in respect of a few items on which we had previously agreed to bind the import duties at a comparatively low rate. The Finance and the Commerce and Industry Ministries have also been constantly examining the question of incidence of duties on imported articles primarily with a view to tapping new sources of revenue. The collection of customs duty during the last five months amounted approximately to Rs. 60 crores as against our budget estimate of Rs. 177·5 crores for the whole year. Seasonal shipments of commodities like tea will take place only hereafter and there is generally a greater tempo of import and export activity in the later months of the financial year, and it may be expected that duty receipts will be proportionately higher in the coming months. But even after making allowance for this, I feel eventually the actual collection might fall short of our budget estimates.

As the House is aware, we had to reduce export duty on certain commodities like oils and oilseeds, manganese ore, etc. wherever these duties could not be sustained. All this has, therefore, made it necessary for Government continually to explore further sources of revenue.

Another consideration has been that our import policy imposing quantitative restrictions on several commodities by the fixation of small quotas has had the effect of creating artificial scarcity and of needlessly raising the consumer price of such articles. The allotment of small quotas has had the effect of preventing newcomers from coming into the trade, as a result of which those established in the line have managed to gather excessive profits. A policy of restrictionism of this nature can be justified by a chronic position of imbalance in our balance of payments of a kind which no longer obtains. A change in the direction of relaxing some of these restrictions was, therefore, imperative and that is what we are seeking to achieve by this Bill. The umbrella incidentally provided by quantitative control for the products of some of our nascent industries against foreign competition, apart from such cases as go to the Tariff Commission for protection, will now be furnished by the high rates of duty, and at the same time, our import policy would be freed from unduly restrictive quotas. We have given considerable thought to this aspect of the question and it was with a view

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to relaxing import restrictions over a small sector that in the last budget certain import duties were raised on certain articles. Under the Bill that is being introduced, we have gone one step further in this direction. While the increase in duty will bring in additional revenue, the landed cost of the imported articles as a result of the increased duty will be high enough so as to give protective cover to local industries and operate as a deterrent against undue expansion of consumption in these import trade articles. At the same time, the excessive margin of profit that was available to the middlemen in conditions of scarcity induced by quantitative controls will be mopped up by the Exchequer. The pursuit of this policy in the past has been attended with some success, and, as a sequel to the introduction of this Bill, the import quotas will naturally be liberalised in a great many of the items where duties have been increased.

2 P.M.

The House will certainly expect me to give an idea of the estimated additional revenue that would be derived from the changes that have been outlined above. I expect, it would be in the region of about Rs. 4½ crores. It may be urged that, perhaps, these minor changes could have been deferred either until after the Taxation Enquiry Commission has reported or until the presentation of the Budget. It is unlikely, however, that the Taxation Enquiry Commission's recommendations will have any specific reference to such minor changes as are being proposed. And, in view of the possible gap between the estimates of revenue and the actuals, it seems to me that we should take the earliest opportunity to make such changes as are likely to contribute, even in some small measure, to the strengthening of the revenue position. I, therefore, commend the proposals to the consideration of the House.

## INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I introduce* the Bill.

## MOTION *RE*: FLOOD SITUATION IN INDIA

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** I beg to move:

"That the flood situation in India be taken into consideration."

Sir, some days ago I presented to the House whatever material was then available about the flood situation in the country and the operations regarding relief that were in progress. I also gave to the House an idea of the nature of the problem and its magnitude. I proceeded further to indicate,—tentatively, of course,—the lines on which the problem should be and could be dealt with. Having done that, I think I need not cover the same ground again, and what remains for me to do at this stage is to acquaint the House with the developments which have occurred regarding floods during the period since the time of my last statement.

I have received this morning a telegram from the Government of Bengal, according to which,—

"Water levels of all rivers are receding. Some areas still submerged in Cooch-Behar and Malda district. Erosion continues in Torsa and Cooch-Behar. Heavy

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

deposits of debris over large tracts. Communication internally in flooded districts and to Assam still severely interrupted."

Sir, the latest report received from U.P. a few hours ago is that, after the end of August, there has been no big floods in U.P. The floods have been receding and the position is improving.

The telegram received from Bihar—also this morning—says:

"Combined wafers of river Bhagirathi and Budiganda receding from above Muzaffarpur where gradients are steep but in lower portions right up to North Monghyr full of water"

It is feared that a good deal of the area south of Muzaffarpur may not get drained for *rabi* cultivation and water that has been spilled from the river is draining slowly. No major change is reported in the courses of Oodi Ganga and Bhagirathi, but Kamala has caused spillage on its left bank below Jhangar. Water from Kamala has combined with Sone and has caused considerable flooding both north and south of the railway line near Jhanjarpur. This area is still flooded. There is a definite tendency for Kamala to form a new channel. The Gagra is eroding Chapra town near its confluence with Ganga.

Now, I come to Assam. There was a telegram on the 8th, which said:

"Erosion situation has been extremely bad for the last nine days and some houses have been eroded and entire length of revetment 1500 ft. eroded due to outflanking and to strong and disturbing currents."

That is about Dibrugarh. On the 10th, the flood situation in all the rivers improved except,—

"Erosion in Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh is going very fast. Embankment washed off. River coming down with lot of timber and dead bodies."

The later telegram this morning states,—

"Flood has receded practically everywhere. Road communications except in Districts Darrang and North Lakhimpur restored. Brahmaputra level at Dibrugarh rising again but no flooding yet. Erosion continues very rapidly. Court buildings only 250 feet from river and a large number of public buildings being dismantled. Number of families displaced upto now 730. No abatement in erosion at Dibrugarh."

Sir, that is, in brief, the situation. Dibrugarh is in a very sad plight, and the threat to it has not been removed.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri** (Gauhati): What about Palaswadi?

**Shri Nanda**: I do not think that the situation there is worsening.

Regarding the action taken since the time of the last statement, I may say something. Hon. Members will remember that I had indicated the lines on which we want to have a solution, and the organisation which we want to set up. The duty was cast on us to take steps immediately to create that organisation. Hon. Members may have seen in the newspapers the report that the Central Flood Control Board has been constituted and I may inform the House that it is meeting on the 15th. The Minister of Planning, Irrigation and Power, the Union Minister of Finance and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and other members will be there on it. But, what I wanted to point out particularly was that on this Board will sit the representatives of each of the State Flood Control Boards of West Bengal, U.P., and Assam. For the present, I have received intimation that the Chief Ministers of these States are coming here on the 15th. Their functions are to draw up a comprehensive plan for flood control, to fix priorities, to deal with matters relating to policy in connection with floods and flood control measures to examine and approve

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specific schemes proposed for the investigation and execution of flood control works in the States and to arrange for necessary assistance in connection with the investigation, planning and execution of flood control works.

In addition, regarding the Flood Control Boards to be set up in the States, we have communicated to them the lines on which that should be done. Details of the investigation work to be carried out in the field are being settled. Staff arrangements at the Centre to carry out this huge work as speedily as possible have been worked out. Arrangements for carrying aerial surveys and spot levelling of Ganga and Brahmaputra in the flood-affected zones covering an area of 50,000 square miles are being made in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research and the Survey of India. Senior officers of the Central Water and Power Commission have been specially sent to Assam to render technical assistance regarding immediate remedial measures to be taken for protection against erosion. Attempts are being made to obtain immediate requirements such as surveying instruments, mobile soil-testing vans, etc., from various sources. This in brief is the position so far. I wonder whether I need say anything more at this stage. I might take a few minutes of the House to enlarge the background on which the discussion is to take place. I do not anticipate any very big controversial points, but some aspects of the flood problem may be clarified.

The first question is—and this arises in my own mind also—on what footing are we going to deal with this problem? What is the urgency that we attach to this problem in our mind? So far as I am aware, public opinion on this issue has crystallised very definitely in favour of treating this problem on a war footing. I share that outlook myself. I deem this problem of floods as among matters of top priority for this country. Some consequences flow from that, that is, a certain price has to be paid and certain sacrifices have to be borne. When we think of the urgency of this question, the first thing that occurs to us is the extent of damage, direct or indirect. We assess it in terms of crores of rupees—particularly the crop damage, the property destroyed and all that. It is a very relevant and valid consideration. I happened to read in the statement of the Chief Minister of Bihar a few lines regarding damage done in Bihar. He has given details of what occurred during the last five years and he has compressed the information about Bihar in a few words. He says: "It has been estimated that the value of crops lost in 1951 and 1952 was of the order of Rs. 85 crores, and again the loss next year was of the order of Rs. 35 crores, and adding to these the estimated loss of Rs. 50 crores this year, the total loss of the country in the four years in question has been"—this includes the figures which he has given before—"of the order of Rs. 170 crores." It may be that this is not a very accurate estimate because it is only based on certain rough calculations, but this is the order of risk against which we have to provide. It is a coincidence that the figure of the Government for all the works to be carried out in these States during a period of a few years for bringing about a measure of protection which can be achieved is the same figure—Rs. 175 crores. This, as I said, is a very relevant aspect, but to my mind, the human aspect is of far greater importance. I am not considering normal floods of the river. The river has to have some room for play for itself and it must have a field for spilling. If in a certain area near the bed of a river water spills and if it is of brief duration, the extent is not too big and the damage is not large in extent, this can be suffered and it may be very beneficial also. I am not thinking of those floods, but I am thinking of floods which are very destructive

in their sweep and intensity, the damage that they cause and the sufferings that they entail. If such floods were very rare, once in a hundred years, then also the problem may be of a very different order. But, if in five years, a State has to have three bad floods—maybe that this flood is very much bigger than any flood before, and I read that in Assam in 1948 the flood was unprecedented at that point of time—it has to be seriously taken note of. In brief, floods have recurred and the human aspect of it is this. If it is a question of a town being eroded, we will see the value of the property in the town and suppose it is worth Rs. 4 crores and if the cost of protection by revetment, etc. comes to Rs. 5 crores, we will say "Let us shift the town instead". There is the question of economic justification regarding such places. If it was only a question of occasionally having a few lives lost, we might also endure it, but here I look at the problem from what I saw myself during my own personal visits and from the first-hand experiences of those people who have gone through these agonies—it is a question of lakhs of people over a period of time, a month or two, going through harrowing experiences swollen sheet of water comes in between them and the earth and they have to perch on trees or on roofs. They have to improvise some kind of arrangement so that they may float on the water. They are in dread of starvation; they are semi-starved for a time. When the flood subsides even then it is not comfortable existence for them. There is the prospect of disease, and epidemics. People sicken and die in large numbers although everything is being done to mitigate the sufferings of the people. Later on, a fertilised soil may give them a bumper crop, but what can make up for the sufferings of lakhs of people during this period? So, this human aspect has impressed me and I do think of that more than anything else. My own view is that if it is humanly possible, these hazards should be removed, and if they cannot be removed absolutely, something as near as possible to that should be done.

The next question is: can it be done? The answer is that if the demand is that there should be absolute immunity provided for all those people, that cannot be satisfied. We cannot think, at the present stage of our knowledge and our resources, in terms of complete protection, but it is quite possible and it is within our means and resources to extend to the people a very large measure of protection. I am not now thinking of a few people who may choose to sit in the way of the flood if a little spilling is to occur and inconvenience is consequently caused to them, but I am thinking of a very large number of people living in a big valley. We can remove a few people by asking them to shift, but we cannot evacuate a whole valley. For them, a large measure of protection has to be and can be provided. It cannot be absolute. We are thinking of storage works, but even there, no storage work that we can think of will collect all the water that may at any time come in. There may be rainfall exceeding all our past experience. Storage dams may get silted up. We may put up embankments; we may clear the channels, improve them, divert the rivers and all that, but still, embankments may get breached too. We cannot predict the behaviour of the rivers. They have their own way and will. They may outflank all the protection arrangements. All these risks are there. But with all that, it can be safely stated that over many years, barring exceptional risks, it is possible to provide protection. It is in these terms that we have thought of and prepared a programme.

What are the methods that we choose to employ? It is not possible to prevent floods in the sense that we cannot stop rainfall and the melting of snow. There is some scope for land management, that is, deforestation should be checked, and soil erosion should be prevented. These things may have some limited local effect. Therefore, the next thing for us to do is

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first to regulate the flood to the extent that is possible, meaning that we withdraw from the flood as much quantity of water as we can. That may be done by a storage reservoir. That may be done by detention basins, that may be done by creating a floodway for the river. Then there is another way of providing protection. Allow the river an adequate channel so that considering the amount of water that has to flow, it is possible to contain that quantity. Raise walls on both sides, and coupled with that, there is the question of improving the existing capacity of those channels. This is the main line of advance for us. There is also this fact: where we can do nothing, we will have to retreat. That means, we leave those areas where the hazards are too frequent and the cost of protection is too high. They may shift for the time being, and that is to be done in an organised way. It is not a question of a single measure; it may have to be a combination of measures. Usually it is. The measures are not uniform for all places, for all States, for all rivers. Conditions vary. The character of a river is not the same in one place as in another. Conditions vary from area to area and from year to year. That brings up the other question of the importance of data and the study of the behaviour of the rivers and the conditions in the catchment area. The immediate programme is, for such places as are extremely vulnerable and very valuable—some towns in Bengal and Assam and maybe elsewhere, which are being eroded and where valuable properties are at stake—we may provide some kind of protection. It will cost something. It should be done quickly in a year or so.

The next stage is the short-term programme. It may take about five or six years to provide embankments and all other channel improvement measures which may be appropriate. When I say five or six years, let it not be understood that for five or six years we are going to sit down and contemplate on the problem, and then, at the end of the fifth or the sixth year we are going to do something. All the time, work is progressing, in accordance with some order of priorities. Then, the next stage is construction of some reservoirs. I am not thinking of reservoirs in relation to the programme of development of the country, big multi-purpose reservoirs which may cost a great deal. I am thinking of reservoirs of a small size for tributaries, which may have their other benefits but which are needed in any case for the purpose of flood protection. These measures have to be taken in hand, but all this has to be accompanied by, and to a certain extent preceded by, the collection of data, investigations and surveys, and this may take a year or two. This involves heavy work. I might give the hon. Members some idea, something which will help them to appreciate the magnitude of this problem. This work has to be done with the help of a large number of people, trained and semi-trained, the collection of the hydrological data, the preparation of contour surveys and meteorological data etc. Why is it that these data are required? If you decide on a particular measure, without having all that information, you may possibly be throwing all that money into the flood. It will not help at the moment, because it has not been properly designed. These protective measures have to be properly designed, and for that purpose, these data are required. This will need the help of hundreds of workers and much equipment, and this has to be done in far and out of the way places—the whole catchment area. This should be expedited, done in the quickest possible time, and it is on that basis that we are making our arrangements. But collection of data for the two years does not mean that during these two years nothing will be done. There are places where things can be done immediately, because some data are available. There are places where data can be collected immediately which will satisfy the purposes in

hand. There will be enough work going on in the country during this year. The short-term programme, as I said, will start from the second year. This is the basis of the programme.

I have some figures before me. The earthwork that is going to be involved in this embankment programme would be twenty times that of Hirakud Project. It is huge work. That means that we have therefore not to think in the normal terms in which programmes are made. We have to conceive of this programme on the basis which the country expects, on the footing of a war. Now, in doing these things, the Government at the Centre has a part to play; the Governments in the States have their responsibility and they should take it up. I on my part am prepared to assure the House that so far as I am concerned, this will be the 'Number One' programme with me. I hope that the States also will take it in the same light and in the same spirit. But there is something more about it. We may spend money, we may have the designs ready, we may be prepared to go forward with the programme, but if things have to be done in the quickest time, then, the people have to be mobilised. Machinery may be there or may not be there. Some machinery will be required anyhow but for lack of machinery nothing should be held up. A very large number of people can be mobilised; after all they have to benefit. That is a task which we could not do sitting here; it has to be done by the leaders. I believe hon. Members in this House, in the State Assemblies and outside will sit together and think of a way of seeking that co-operation of the people and harnessing their energy and mobilising it on a very large scale so that the programmes before us which we have evolved for the flood protection can be taken on hand and their pace can be very much accelerated.

**Mr. Chairman**: Motion moved:

> **"That the flood situation in India be taken into consideration."**

Now, there are certain amendments of which notice has been given. First of all is an amendment by Mr. Patnaik but I believe that clause (e) of his amendment is clearly outside the scope of the resolution and as such is out of order. So omitting that clause (e) he may move his amendment.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik** (Ghumsur): I have already sent a note that I am not moving clause (e) of my amendment and I have also made a slight alteration in the wording of clause (f) which will become clause (e) when the original clause (e) is omitted. Instead of ".....and soil erosion by construction....." I have said ".....and erosion by construction.....". Clause (g) will now become clause (f).

I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

> "This House having considered the flood situation in the country is of opinion that—
>
> (a) the approach of planning must be duly modified by laying proper emphasis upon the training and mobilisation of our manpower for flood-control, anti-erosion, irrigation and allied schemes;
>
> (b) the policy of importing machinery from outside for implementing various programmes be reviewed and reduced to absolutely necessary items;
>
> (c) the surplus defence stores in the Depots and the services of the Military Engineering Organisation be utilised for flood-control and allied measures;
>
> (d) a positive and dynamic programme be chalked out for enlisting popular co-operation in the envisaged work;
>
> (e) all long range plans for control of floods and erosion by construction of dams, embankments, rivetments and spurs be investigated into; and

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(f) short-range measures for relief, rehabilitation and protection be urgently adopted by co-operation and co-ordination at all levels."

**Shri A. P. Sinha** (Muzaffarpur East): Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment and with your permission I would like to make a small verbal change. Instead of "... the country approves of the steps taken by the Central Government....." it will read ".....the country approves of the programme and the steps taken by the Central Government....".

I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country approves of the programme and the steps taken by the Central Government regarding flood-control measures and financial and other aids assured to the State Governments for relief to the victims of unprecedented floods."

**Mr. Chairman:** I think Sardar Saigal is not in the House and so his amendment is not moved. Shri Barrow may move his amendment.

**Shri Barrow** (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to set up Emergency Committees in each of the affected areas in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, consisting of Central and State Government civilian officials, Military officials and non-official representatives with special powers to render help and assistance where necessary."

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah** (Golaghat-Jorhat): I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country is of opinion that immediate and speedy action be taken—

(a) to prevent as far as possible further destruction and damage of properties;

(b) to give shelter to and rehabilitate the flood-stricken people; and

(c) to place adequate funds with State Governments concerned for relief and rehabilitation, including the Government of Assam especially to enable it to shift the public buildings and markets etc., in the towns of Dibrugarh and Palashbari."

**Shri S. N. Das** (Darbhanga Central): I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country notes with satisfaction that the Central as well as all the State Governments concerned have now realised the gravity of the situation created by the unprecedented floods in North Eastern India and the urgency of the problem of flood control by taming all the turbulent rivers of that area and recommends that besides taking immediate and prompt short-term measures to mitigate the evils of floods, permanent bodies both at the Centre as well as in different States be constituted to do all that is possible to control flood in those areas as early as possible."

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta North-East): I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country

is of opinion that—

(a) the present situation should be considered to be one of national emergency and every effort should be made to rouse and organise the people in the carrying out of schemes for flood and river control etc.; and

(b) the immediate measures for providing adequate relief to flood and erosion victims, and schemes for their rehabilitation should be adopted and implemented with the co-operation of non-official organisations irrespective of party affiliation."

**Mr. Chairman:** Amendments moved:

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country is of opinion that—

(a) the approach of planning must be duly modified by laying proper emphasis upon the training and mobilisation of our man-powers for flood-control, anti-erosion, irrigation and allied schemes:

(b) the policy of importing machinery from outside for implementing various programmes be reviewed and reduced to absolutely necessary items;

(c) the surplus defence stores in the Depots and the services of the Military Engineering Organisation be utilised for flood-control and allied measures;

(d) a positive and dynamic programme be chalked out for enlisting popular co-operation in the envisaged work;

(e) all long range plans for control of floods and erosion by construction of dams, embankments, rivetments and spars be investigated into; and

(f) short-range measures for relief, rehabilitation and protection be urgently adopted by co-operation and co-ordination at all levels."

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country approves of the programme and the steps taken by the Central Government regarding flood-control measures and financial and other aids assured to the State Governments for relief to the victims of unprecedented floods."

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

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That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country notes with satisfaction that the

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Central as well as all the State Governments concerned have now realised the gravity of the situation created by the unprecedented floods in North Eastern India and the urgency of the problem of flood control by taming all the turbulent rivers of that area and recommends that besides taking immediate and prompt short-term measures to mitigate the evils of floods, permanent bodies both at the Centre as well as in different States be constituted to do all that is possible to control flood in those areas as early as possible."

That for the original motion the following be substituted:

"This House having considered the flood situation in the country is of opinion that—

(a) the present situation should be considered to be one of national emergency and every effort should be made to rouse and organise the people in the carrying out of schemes for flood and river control etc.; and

(b) the immediate measures for providing adequate relief to flood and erosion victims, and schemes for their rehabilitation should be adopted and implemented with the co-operation of non-official organisations irrespective of party affiliation."

An amendment was received in the Office at 10-40 A.M. today from Shri K. P. Tripathi, but I am afraid that I cannot allow it. All the same he can make a speech.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Sir, I have joined my name to one of the amendments.....

**Mr. Chairman:** His name is circulated already along with that amendment.

I want to tell one thing before hon. Members begin. Floods have affected very large areas in the provinces of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Bengal. I have got a large number of requests from hon. Members and I am sure many more will rise in their seats. In order to accommodate as many hon. Members as I possibly can, I fix the time-limit for every speech at ten minutes.....

**Shri Gadgil** (Poona Central): May I say a word? At least I want to speak for ten minutes because I had something to do with that.....

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** Ten minutes are too little.....

**Mr. Chairman:** I have ventured to take three or four minutes of your time because of this. The floods are so extensive in all these areas and if the hon. Members take more time than this, the result will be that, at the end of four hours' discussion the grievances of certain parts which are represented in the House could not be put forth. Whatever the grievances may be, it is necessary that hon. Members should take as little time as possible. I might say that even though I have fixed the time-limit at ten minutes, I will certainly welcome that if hon. Members speak for even less time. For explaining the situation we need not take more than this time.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र** (सारन व चम्पारन) : सभापति जी, मेरी प्रार्थना है कि जिन जिन जिलों में और जिन जिन पार्ट्स में बाढ़ आई है वहां के लोगों को बोलने का मौका देना चाहिये। मंत्री जी ने जो बतलाया है उन्होंने केवल नदियों के बारे में बतलाया है, लेकिन मैं उनको बतलाऊं कि मेरे वहां काफी दुखद घटनायें हुई हैं अथवा जहां कि अर्थक्वेक की वजह से जमीन का लेवल चेंज हुआ है और भयंकर विनाश हुआ है वहां के लोगों को अपनी बात बतलाने का मौका देना चाहिये।

**सभापति महोदय** : उन स्थानों से आदमी बोलने के लिये इतने हैं और चार घंटे में आध

घंटा तो हो गया है और आध ही घंटा मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर में लगेगा, अब अगर हम वक्ता १० मिनट लें तो १८ मेम्बर्स बोल सकेंगे, इस वास्ते मैं अपील करूंगा कि जितने थोड़े में आप लोग अपनी बात कहेंगे, उतना ज्यादा फायदा होगा, क्योंकि उससे और ज्यादा लोगों को बोलने का मौका मिलेगा।

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** I am thankful to you for having offered me an opportunity to say a few words in this important debate. This question of flood has been detailed very well in the three papers—two by the Minister of Planning, Irrigation and Power of the other by the Minister of Home Affairs. Therefore, I will not cover those aspects of the matter which are detailed in these three papers.

I have to say a word about the statement by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. It seems to be touched up in certain details. I am certain that his statement is rather old it is not catching up with the lines. Here I find in one place the mortality of cattle has been placed at about 500 heads in Assam, but I have no manner of doubt that till I left my constituency on the 3rd of this month, not less than about 7,000 to 8,000 heads of cattle are either dead or washed away in my constituency alone. This is one constituency only, and the floods are raging through the length and breadth of Assam.

Then at page 5 of his report, I find this:".....In the meantime the services of experts are being placed at the disposal of the State Governments where asked for....." I am sure that the Centre will do something if a Government asks for certain things. If some Governments are not asking, why should we wait for the State Governments to ask? It is as much the responsibility and obligation on the part of the Central Government to send out help to States.

At the outset I must offer grateful thanks to the Government of India, to our Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning, Irrigation and Power, and the hon. Members of the Parliament who are taking keen interest in the matter. I will go back and tell the people that our miseries and our sufferings have a redeeming feature in that everbody is looking towards us, towards Assam which was very little known till Mahatma Gandhi made it known at the end of 1920. It has attracted more and more attention every year.

Floods in Assam are not a new thing. But to express it briefly in the language of the Planning Minister, the intensity, duration and extension of the floods of this year are unprecedented. Floods of the Brahmaputra occurred towards the middle of June and continued for about a fortnight. The peak level of the floods was reached on the night of the 23rd of August and remained at that level till the 3rd or 4th September. Nearly for about two months a large population of the places on both sides of the Brahmaputra and certain of its tributaries were under water.

The beautiful town of Sadiya, once a well-planned town and later on the headquarters of the sub-division, was swallowed by the Brahmaputra. The headquarters were shifted to Teju, therefore people do not talk much about Sadiya for it had been swallowed and the headquarters had been shifted.

With regard to Dibrugarh which is a prosperous tea town, a whole chunk of it has been swallowed by the mighty current of the Brahmaputra.

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Public buildings like post offices, telegraph offices, Circuit House and other business and residential premises have vanished into the womb of the Brahmaputra. The current is very powerful.

The Planning Minister talked of popular support. May I tell him, in all humility, that in Dibrugarh, when the waters of the Brahmaputra were furiously striking against the rivetment, people numbering nearly twenty thousand—in a small town which is populated by about fifty thousand people or a little over—took part in trying to save that rivetment. Day and night, the medical college students, the school students, the town people, old and young, rich and poor, with whatever capacity, carried stones and threw them at the end of the rivetment, so that the scouring may not outflank the rivetment. They did their best, but unfortunately the rivetment could not be saved.

Coming down below to Sibsagar district there is an island, Majuli, fifty miles long and seven miles wide, with a population of about seventy-two thousand. It has practically been submerged under water. Although the human mortality is not great, I shall not be far wrong if I say that nearly eight thousand cattle were washed away or killed. And those that are surviving the onslaught of water are continually under the water, some hardly keeping their nose and head out for several days together. From about the night of 23rd of August till about the 3rd of September the floods were at the peak level or receding only by a few inches.

The suffering of the people of this area is untold. 11,86 families have lost their homesteads due to erosion. Near Gauhati, Palashbari, a beautiful and prosperous town has been eroded.

Lower down, in the border of Assam, in Goalpara, the jute crop has been washed away.

In respect of this report on floods two things are refreshing: one thing is that the Government have admitted that in the past very little was done or rather practically nothing was done. It is stated:

> "Although floods have been causing serious damage to property and inflicting terrible hardships on the inhabitants of certain States, no systematic attempt has been made so far to devise adequate measures for flood protection in the areas so affected. Each time a heavy flood is experienced it has been the practice for the States to meet the situation by the adoption of such emergency measures as remissions of land revenue, grant of loans, gratuitous relief, etc. designed to mitigate hardship. Flood committees have also been appointed from time to time by the various States, but their recommendations have, for the most part, remained a dead letter. In Assam committees were appointed in 1929, 1934, 1947 and 1950 and they suggested the collection of hydrological and other data."

But nothing seems to have been done till now. As regards measures of protection, precious little was done in the past. We hear from time to time that a crore of rupees was sanctioned for protection of Dibrugarh town. May I submit in all seriousness that the authorities, whoever may be responsible, took the whole matter like *a tamasha*? Will you believe that trees were felled, mango and jack

fruit trees were felled, and tied with steel ropes with their branches and leaves and just hung on the bank of the Brahmaputra to retard the mighty current? Dibrugarh town has been practically denuded of trees for throwing them into the Brahmaputra. How much money has been thrown away, we do not know. Fifteen hundred feet of this revetment was drowned. At the height of the floods, when the furious currents were striking against the rivetment, the officer who was in charge of it went to Shillong to make certain reports. So even the utility and the value of studying the whole matter was lost. If this officer had been there, he could have studied how the water was trying to scour under and outflank the rivetment.

And in the past what do we find the Government of India doing?—

> So far the State Government have been depending entirely on the Central Water and Power Commission for investigation, planning and fixation of priorities for development of different river valley basins. Although some visits have been paid to Assam by high level experts (some by road and others by air) the matter has not been dealt with systematically. After the visit of the Iengar Committee to Assam after the 1950 earthquake, a beginning for systematic investigation was sought to be made by the establishment of a river investigation division by the Central Government, a part of the cost of which was to be shared by Assam. Although this division has been sanctioned, it has not so far shifted its headquarters to Assam—till before the floods the headquarters had not been shifted to Assam; wherefrom they are communicating, goodness knows! As a result of repeated representations the division has now been ordered to shift its headquarters to Gauhati. It is not known how soon this will be done. The problem of investigation however is a very large one and the State Government moved the Government of India for the establishment of a second river investigations division which has also been sanctioned. It is not known how soon it will come into being.

I have no doubt about the sincerity on the part of the Planning Minister, Shri Nanda. But sincerity alone cannot deliver goods. I would beg of him to come down from the air to the ground. What are his officers doing and how are things going on for the last three and a half years and even now? It is said that the rivetment, which will be about four miles, will be completed within the next winter. It is next to impossible to complete it within the next season. Of course if it is feasible, it is all right. I do not know whether it is feasible or not, but if it is left to the Army it may be done. Even after the establishment of the second river investigation division. It is felt that, due to the preoccupation of the Central Water and Power Commission with schemes all over India, the Central Water and Power Commission will not be able to pay adequate attention to Assam's needs, and if at all it is to be ensured that some river valley projects form part of the Second Five Year Plan for Assam, it is necessary that a River Investigation Wing be set up in the State P.W.D. as an integral part thereof, as early as possible. In Assam, we have a dearth of technicians. We had till now only one Assistant Chief Engineers, another Executive Engineer and another S.D.O. for the whole State to look after all these things. It is next to impossible for them to cope with the work. It is up to the Central Government to supply the technicians whether the State Government asks or not.

Our difficulty is immense. Mr. Chairman, I do not know where we stand. When we go to our State, the State Government says that the Central Government does not give us any help. I do not know where we

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really stand. The State Government says that they do not get timely sanction, timely help from the Centre, that they do not get money timely and that the Central Government neglects them. When we come to the Central Government, the Ministers here tell us, we give money, but the State Government is not able to spend, we do not know what to do. Would you Mr. Chairman, please guide us as a senior Parliamentarian as to what we can do? This is the fate of the people of Assam. The State Government says, we do not get anything from the Centre.

**Shri Nanda:** If I may interrupt my hon. friend for a moment, does he want me to give information regarding the subject in hand, that is, the question of floods and the measures relating to that or generally on the question of Central assistance?

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** As regards the floods, particularly in respect of the floods that I am talking of. The hon. Minister will, of course, make a reply and if what I say is incorrect I shall stand corrected.

I am told that one crore of rupees is there for Dibrugarh. What shall we do with one crore of rupees if we cannot save Dibrugarh? If Dibrugarh can be shifted, the Brahmaputra will eat away another slice of Assam. What shall we do then? So, the question of shifting Dibrugarh does not arise. Dibrugarh has to be saved, to save the other parts of the country at its tail. Please give me five minutes more. In a life time, we get a chance.

**Mr. Chairman:** We have yet to go to Kosi and other rivers.

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** As regards reimbursement, of expenditure by the State Government, to stave off famine conditions, a provision of Rs. 15 crores exists in the Five Year Plan. The State Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 86,000. When the State Government approached the Central Government, asking the Ministry of Finance to reimburse this expenditure out of the provision of Rs. 15 crores, the Ministry of Finance, while agreeing that the provision was for meeting 50 per cent. of the expenditure on gratuitous relief and for meeting 50 per cent. of the expenditure on approved relief works as loan, refused to reimburse the expenditure on the ground that the expenditure is not beyond the resources of the State. Can you think of a more sad state of business? There is a provision for Rs. 15 crores. The State Government has spent the amount on gratuitous relief. But, when we approach the Central Government, they say that the State can reimburse. Mind you, Sir, the State of Assam has a revenue of Rs. 14 crores, including Rs. 3·45 crores as a Central grant so, our revenue comes to only about Rs. 10 crores. The Central Government is getting out of cess, export duty.....

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it in connection with floods or famine?

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** Famine and flood. The gratuitous relief was for floods. The sum of Rs. 15 crores is provided to stave off famine conditions.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us concern ourselves with floods.

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** Famine conditions arising out of flood. The whole tract of the country has been devastated and therefore famine conditions arise. The provision is there for that purpose. When we ask ourselves to be reimbursed, they say that the State Government can afford to spend it. We have got a revenue of Rs. 10 crores. The Central Government itself draws a little over Rs. 9 crores from cess, export duty, and excise duty over oil, tea and jute from Assam. This is the position.

Finally, I would beg of the Planning Minister one thing. It is not enough to say that it will be treated on war footing. We shall appreciate it if it is worked out. With his machinery, the hon. Minister knows how

to work it out on a war footing. We hope that these Commissions Boards, and Committees will not continue to go on in the way they did in the past while Assam Vally is being swallowance up. All that I beg of him is to act promptly and speedily.

**Acharya Kripalani** (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): It is not my intention to go into the details of the havoc caused by the floods, whether in terms of money, crops, houses, cattle, men or anything else. Some moderate figures have been given by our Minister for Irrigation, Power, etc., etc.

**Shri Gadgil:** No etc.

**Acharya Kripalani:** We have been given an account of not only what has happened this year, but also of what happened in the previous years. We are told that in the last five years there were as many as four heavy floods in Assam, two severe and two mild ones in Bihar, and three extensive ones both in West Bengal and the U.P. The present floods may be exceptional in their intensity, extent and duration. But, they are by no means a new phenomena in the history of these regions. In fact, a team of experts was sent to Assam sometime in 1950 to study the problem relating to floods in that area. But, nothing worth while was ever done The same is the case with Bengal and Bihar. In Bihar, as early as 1948, the Revenue Minister stated in the Legislative Assembly that some permanent arrangements have to be made for checking floods and for flood relief. However, nothing materialised.

Even as a Member of the Opposition, it would look ungraceful to criticise the Government and its machinery when we are considering a natural calamity. But I think I am in good company when I do it with the Prime Minister. Surveying the floods in Assam, he took the authorities to task. "Relief organisation", he said, "is no *mela*. For the executive, everything is a *mela*. The least the authorities could have done was to have alerted the people well in advance to be ready to evacuate at short notice. Instead, there was a last minute scramble and the result was that a confused public grew more panicky". This is what the Prime Minister said.

3 P.M.

The same is true of Bihar. Relief operations were delayed due to lack of directions from above. When the State Government became aware of the realities, they authorised the district officers not to wait for orders from above, but to proceed on their own initiative.

Again, medical stores were nowhere to be found. When they were supplied, the doctors were nowhere to be found, nor even compounders. Epidemics, naturally, therefore, spread. Not only that, the authorities were not able to take care of the store of rice and grains that were in these areas. In Dharbanga there was stores of rice, and yet the price rose from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30 per maund. In two other places in Bihar, grains, several lakhs of maunds, that were stocked were swept away. About one million labourers who shifted to safer places are idle. This does not show on the part of the Government any sense of urgency.

And so far as the work of survey is concerned, it is done in a most leisurely fashion. It took more than a year to conduct an on-the-spot survey of the river Sarayu in the district of Saran. There are eight to ten executive engineers in a temporary capacity, and they are there not knowing what is going to happen to them.

I would give one instance to illustrate how the bureaucratic methods work even in an emergency. Last year, the executive engineer for survey purposes wanted a motor launch in North Bihar, and he approached his superior, the superintending engineer. In turn that officer approached some Secretary. One Secretary sent the request to another Secretary, till at last it reached the Chief Minister, and the Chief Minister was pleased to order that the

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launch be made available. The launch was there, but it took so much time to get the necessary permission that when the orders were received, the rains had already started and no survey could be done. In 1950 a committee was appointed to collect hydraulic and other data so that remedial measures of a reliable character could be devised. It is indeed surprising that even the Planning Commission, despite the high priorities it gave to multipurpose projects, did not care to collect the needed data for comprehensive flood control. How dearly this neglect has caused us was just now related by the Minister himself. In the last three years the damage caused only in Bihar has been calculated to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 175 crores—that we are told is required for flood control in all the four States. The lack of sustained and systematic effort has meant that merely on relief in the three years we have spent Rs. 18 crores. It shows that there is no sense of urgency.

Even in the schemes that have been sanctioned, to quote the Prime Minister, there is much delay. He says "delay in the execution of projects has proved very costly. For instance, in the execution of the Bhakra-Nangal project, something of the order of Rs. 8 lakhs had to be spent everyday. Any delay in carrying out such a project was likely to prove very costly—and there were delays. A delay in sanctioning an allotment of Rs. 10,000 might cost Rs. 10 lakhs".

The Kosi river projects have been before us, any number of them, for years yet there is delay in taking action.

Only when we are caught in an extraordinary disaster we begin to stir ourselves; then, too we make ourselves active when the Prime Minister himself begins to stir himself, and begins to curse all and sundry. Only then the administration and the provincial governments begin to realise the importance of the work before them. However as soon as the Prime Minister's whip is taken away, they go to sleep again.

Shri Nanda described to us not only the loss in money, but in very moving terms, the plight of the people. Yet, what do the Government do? The plight of the people year by year becomes worse and worse. Their resistance power decreases. Yet, the money given for relief is ever diminishing in proportion to the money given as loans. I have some figures with me which I shall read to the House.

In 1946-47, 39.3 per cent. was given as loans and the gratuitous relief was 60.7 per cent. In 1947-48 the loans were 37 per cent. and the relief was 63 per cent. In 1948-49 loans were 50 per cent. and relief was 50 per cent. In 1949-50, the loans were 80·31 per cent., while relief was only 11·7 per cent. In 1953 the loans were 83 per cent. and the gratuitous relief was 17 per cent. The capacity of the people to bear the calamity is diminishing. Their resources are diminishing, but the figures of relief are also diminishing. Even now, the money given as relief is much less than that given as loan. Shri Nanda told us that the Centre has given Rs. 575 lakhs. Of this, relief is only Rs. 196 lakhs, and Rs. 329 lakhs are for loans.

The delay in making permanent arrangements for flood control are due to want of data and also due to the pattern which alone we think will be able to control the floods. Ever since Independence, our attention is riveted to the western kind of industrialisation and even for flood control we want big machines and also the technology appropriate to the use of those machines. But what has been done in the neighbouring country of China is very revealing.

The Government of India sent their own engineers under the guidance of Shri Kunwar Sain. He has opined that in the light of the experience

of the Yellow River, the 1953 Kosi scheme is found to be quite sound. So far as the projects are concerned, there is not, and there cannot be, any fundamental difference. But, yet, the achievement of China remains unique from the point of view of speed. He says "The North Kiangsu Irrigation Canal which irrigates four million acres of land in addition to serving a navigational canal nearly 420 feet wide and carrying 25,000 cubic feet of water per second for one hundred miles—i.e., twice the capacity of the Bhakra canal—was completed in eighty days". This is a world record and this was done by human labour. Twelve lakhs of people were employed. What is impressive about the Chinese achievement is that big projects could be carried out without employing large machinery and also the technology that that machinery needs. And the speed with which things have been done in China is phenomenal.

China organises peasant workers for national purposes in a systematic manner during periods when they are free from agricultural operations, which is about four to five months in the year. They are mobilised when they have no work. There, it is not like the mobilisation of the Government of India. Those in the villages who give work have to give it gratuitously. The Chinese labourers got a wage ranging from Re. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2 per day. They also enjoy other facilities. Our experts do not seem to have any doubt about the quality of the work done. But we here seem to be suffering from a machine obsession, and therefore, we are sceptical about what human labour can do. What has happened in China, why should it not happen in India? Often Gandhiji told us that man is the most delicate machine, and what could be done through big machines in the Western countries could be equally well done by the great population, we have. If we want to avoid unemployment, our population must be utilised, and machines should not be introduced at the expense of men.

I am glad to say that our authorities are recognising what they should have recognised long before as they had come in contact with Gandhiji and worked with him and under him. Even now, this human mobilisation can only be possible, if in other directions also, it is undertaken. So far as I can see, Government want to do everything through their own machinery, through the bureaucratic machinery, that they have. Before Indenpendence, wherever there was flood or famine, the people mobilised themselves and carried on relief work on their own initiative. But nowadays, everything is done through Government. Not only that but the channels of charity have also dried up. One of the causes of drying up of the channels of charity is that there are many Ministers who are out to take, and who are taking, this charity for works that they are interested in, for their own fads, and for building *ashrams* and things like that in their own constituencies.

I shall give you a simple example to show how the bureaucratic machinery has smothered popular initiative and enthusiasm. When the displaced persons' rehabilitation was an immediate and urgent problem, two very great followers of Gandhiji came to Delhi, and they wanted to organise refugee rehabilitation work. They were Shri Vinobhaji and Shri Jajuji. In three or four months' time, they got so disgusted that they went away, and they said that nothing could be done with the help of bureaucracy. It is because he was disappointed in doing anything in co-operation with the Government that Vinobhaji started the bhoodan movement where he did not need Government help or co-operation. This is not something that I am inventing, but that is what he, Vinobhaji, told me himself.

So, unless our people are again to have the initiative and enthusiasm which they had before independence, and unless that initiative is encouraged by our Government and by our

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leaders, I think, it would be impossible to get public co-operation. It would appear that it is easier to get the initiative and enthusiasm of the people under a totalitarian government like that of China, than through a democratic government here. If that is so, I am afraid, people would prefer autocracy to democracy; for the world's work has got to be done anyhow. If it cannot be done in one way, people will want to do it in another way maybe a worse way. I assure you that we would not have followed Gandhiji but we would have followed the way of the bomb and pistol, if Gandhiji had not shown us that the non-violent way was the quicker, the more efficient and the more effective way for achieving independence.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi** (Darrang): I am really very glad that we are discussing a problem which is one of the most important problems of India, viz., floods, and I want to focus here the problem of Assam.

Assam is one of the most rainy parts of the world. You know there is Cherrapunji there, and therefore, the rivers of Assam are highly fed by rains. We have also the problem of snow-fed rivers. When both these things combine, the problem of flood becomes one of the most difficult in Assam. So far as I have seen and I have tried to compare, I begin to feel that there is no part of the world where this flood problem is so acute as in Assam. The number of rivers and tributaries per square mile in this area is, I think, the highest in the world. So, there is no reason why there should be no floods there. As a matter of fact, the people of Assam have been acquainted with floods for a long time, but the problem that has occurred after 1950 is a new problem.

In 1950, the House will remember, there was a great earthquake there, and as a result thereof, the topography of Assam changed. Now, you are hearing of the problem of Dibrugarh. Dibrugarh was nearly six miles away from the Brahmaputra river at that time. Erosion of Dibrugarh was occurring even then, but it was occurring because of another tributary, namely the Dibru. But the Dibru has been wiped out, because the Brahmaputra itself has been so tilted that it has come right headlong over Dibrugarh. Now you are trying to protect it by rivetment. Even though the problem has changed so much after the 1950 earthquake, still it has not been sufficiently taken stock of by the Government of India. That is the most unfortunate part.

Before 1950, it was decided that there would be a river valley scheme for the Brahmaputra, and there was a unit set up for finding out hydrological data in regard to Dibrugarh. Just after the earthquake, it was said that it could not be done, because it was an earthquake area, and therefore, this unit was withdrawn. That was the most unfortunate act. Even if the experts had said that it could not be done, still, the unit for collection of hydrological data should have been maintained there. But that was not maintained. And now you say that there are no hydrological data available. If that unit had been maintained there, it would have been better.

Even now, we hear that Government have sanctioned for a hydrological data collection team, but it has not yet gone there and established its headquarters. That is a very interesting thing.

When the hon. Minister announced that this was going to be taken on a war-footing, we all felt happy. The human approach and the way in which he has tried to paint the sorrow and suffering of the people there will, I think, be appreciated by people all over the country, and it will be realised that for the first time, the Government of India are going to tackle this problem with an urgency which was not felt before.

In the first Five Year Plan, the problem of floods was given a go-by. As

a matter of fact, the river contr' schemes which were undertaken were all in industrial areas only, and it was thought that if we could provide cheap electricity to these areas, it would be well. But I feel that although it was given the go-by, the collection of hydrological data at least should have been done, so that as soon as we had finished with the industrial areas, we could have switched over quickly to these flood-affected areas, and controlled the floods in these areas.

I realise that good time has been wasted. But that does not matter, so long as we wake up now and try to undo what has been already done. I may tell you what has happened in the meantime. The Brahmaputra bed has risen. After the 1950 earthquake, when the floods came, the amount of silt carried by the Brahmaputra river was so tremendous that for some time, the fish in that river died out of suffocation. The steamers could not be run, and they had to be stopped. All these things happened then, but thereafter the bed of the Brahmaputra river has risen. Even now, the experts tell us that the flood water level in that river is not higher than in some earlier years. But the flood havoc caused this year has been higher than that in the earlier years. What is the reason? The reason is that the Brahmaputra channel could not carry that much water; therefore, the water spills and spills over vast areas. This year, nearly fifty per cent. of the plain area of Assam valley has been flooded.

Is that a small thing—50 per cent. of the plains area damaged by the floods? That is a tremendous thing and country must consider it. The amount of loss caused cannot be measured by the relief given by the Government; the relief given is a mere indicator of the amount of loss caused. The hon. Minister himself has cited some figures for Bihar, some figures for West Bengal and some for Assam. There is no measure by which this can be retrieved. The hon. Minister has stated that in the course of the last five years, there have been four floods in Bihar, four in Assam and three in Bengal. Is that a small thing? By this way, occurring year after year, the floods take away the surplus capital created in the country by their erosion. The countryside goes in ruination. You know that these are poor States. In Assam all the industries are owned by shareholders from outside; therefore, no capital formation occurs there. That which occurs in the rural areas is also washed away by the river. Therefore, it is a very serious thing. The amount of poverty created every year in Assam by these floods is tremendous. Therefore, I would request Government to consider how this situation can be met.

It has been said that you are going to create Flood Control Boards at the Centre and in the States. It has been created at the Centre, and I think in Assam also, the Board has been set up. But the whole point is, how quickly they will begin to function and how quickly they will execute.

**Shri Nanda:** They are meeting on the 15th.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** The problem is how to control, and how quickly to control, these floods. The quicker we can do it, the better. I am sure any scheme which is brought forward by the Government will be supported by the public; the people of these places will come forward to help. Because the people have realised their plight, therefore, they will come forward and help—I have no doubt about it. It is a question of organising and mobilising the man-power and resources of the country. What I feel is this. Although you have given the task of flood control to the Assam Flood Control Board, they have no idea of the finances which will be available. Without an idea of the finances available, it is not possible to chalk out a plan. Every plan must be based upon some finance. Unless and until you say that whatever reasonable

[Shri K. P. Tripathi]

plan, whatever scientific plan is possible and necessary for controlling the floods in this area will be sanctioned, I do not think these people will have the courage to put forward bold schemes.

I would request you to consider this valley as a whole and not in parts. You have to take this as a whole and set up a Commission for the entire valley. It will go systematically into the task and try to find out what are the solutions. It will not do to send a team today and another tomorrow, because what is necessary is a continuous Committee or Commission which goes into a study of the whole thing and tries to find out what solutions may be possible. It may be that a solution prescribed today is found on experiment to fail tomorrow. Therefore, a permanent Commission for this river valley, just as the TVA Commission in USA, is necessary. The TVA Commission has been constantly working and finding new problems. After all the tributaries have been harnessed, still new problems remain and those problems are being dealt with from time to time. Therefore, to deal with the problem of floods in Northern India, it shall be necessary to have all these Commissions, the Ganges Commission, the Brahmaputra Commission and the Tiesta Commission, on a permanent basis; they should be provided with funds and they should go forward with their work so that floods can be permanently controlled.

It will also have to be considered whether dams will have to be there, because I feel that unless and until you combine flood control measures with some sort of damming, it will not be possible to tackle the problem permanently. It was suggested that 400 miles of embankment would be created on either side of the Brahmaputra. The problem which is facing us is this. The Brahmaputra bed is rising. If you create embankments, what will happen is that the water level will rise up to that height; the water level of the tributaries which flow into it will also be raised up to that height. They will not be able to discharge water into the Brahmaputra. They will just by-pass and create floods on the other side and try to break the embankment. I do not know how this scheme will work. Many experts have told us that this may not work. It is for the experts to consider whether it will work or not. If it does not, then it is a matter for you to consider. I would also request Government to consider whether in local areas like Dibrugarh, alongside revetment dredging may also not be possible. If you have dredging, say, for ten miles, you will be bringing the water course down the older bed of the river from deep water channel to deep water channel. By digging out, you will have avoided the problem of creating pockets which get filled by the silt of the water. From deep water channel to deep water channel, it will pass through the old bed quickly. I agree that for a mighty river like the Brahmaputra, it is not possible to have dredging all the way. But in local areas like Dibrugarh or and Palaspari and such other town areas, it will be possible to try dredging alongside the revetment or embankment programme.

Finally I request Government to consider the plight of the number of people who have suffered as a result of erosion of the village areas. I understand now that the number of people so affected has risen to 5,000. When I came from Assam, it was only estimated at 2,000. So the number of people who have to be rehabilitated is very large. This is occurring every year and we have also been trying to rehabilitate them. But rehabilitation is a very costly affair. I think that the Government should have a permanent fund for the purpose of rehabilitation of these people, just as the Government have set apart a fund for the purposes of giving relief during famine. A sum of Rs. 15 crores was provided in the

Five Year Plan for famine relief, but nothing was provided for the purpose of flood relief. Floods create equally dangerous problems and more havoc. Therefore, I would request Government to consider whether some funds cannot be created for this purpose. As you are about to ring the bell, I shall stop now.

**Shri Gadgil**: I think everybody is agreed that the vast destruction caused to property and human life is phenomenal, but it is no use wasting time over this. Floods and famines are annual visitors to our country—either this part of the sub-continent or that part. Wisdom, therefore, lies in our putting our heads together and devising some permanent and effective way whereby we can put a stop to recurrences of flood and famine in this vast sub-continent.

I think I am not at all exaggerating when I say that this is a problem which this great land has inherited from the beginning of the world. It is only after we have attained freedom that we are paying a little more attention to it with a view to see that the destructive nature of these things may be turned into something constructive.

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah**: That is not entirely true.

**Shri Gadgil**: How vast is the problem is not sufficiently appreciated. I do not know how many people know that the Himalayan mountain is the youngest mountain. Because it is the youngest mountain, according to geologists, it is subject to seismic influences. As you know, I had at one stage to deal with the Kosi Project. When experiments were made in boring, it was found that the whole region was subject to earthquake attack. Therefore, we have to consider whether a system of storage or some other system will do or whether what has happened in Algiers only last week will happen again. There, because of the earthquakes, dams have either cracked or collapsed and dams have also completely gone out of existence. Therefore, the first thing that we have to take into consideration very carefully is we must have sufficient data to build up our plan. I do not think that this data can be collected even during two or three years, but if the Government is successful in collecting sufficient data on which to base its plan and designs, I shall certainly compliment them. I do not share the optimism of my friend, Mr. Nanda, who says he will be able to tackle the flood problem in seven years. I shall certainly congratulate him—if we both live—at the end of fourteen years that we have substantially done it.

This has to be done from several points of view, observation, design, organisation, execution and review. So far as observation is concerned, let us make one point clear. We cannot control a river here or a tributary there. The map of this country clearly shows that the northern part of it minus Assam is under one river system—I would call it the Gangetic system. It is no good dealing with the Kosi alone or the Ghantaki alone or with Yamuna alone. The expert must deal with the whole territory as being subject to one river system because whatever we do with respect to one river is bound to affect the other into which all these tributaries empty themselves at one place or other. Therefore in order to draw a proper design you have to collect not only meteorological data, geological data, hydrological data and other data and all this must be done in addition to consulting foreign experts from wherever such problems have either to be faced or have been solved to some extent. The instance of China has been given. It is worth while to note that, and I understand that a team of experts from this country has already visited it.

After design we have also to take into consideration what sort of organisation will be brought into existence to deal with this problem. If we accept, as I have suggested, that the whole of northern India should be

[Shri Gadgil]

considered as one integrated problem, then there must be one organisation to look after it.

So far as the river system in Assam is concerned, it is separate by itself Therefore, there must be another organisation to deal with it. There may be a third organisation co-ordinating economic and financial problems. But, so far as the technical problem is concerned, there must be two different organisations: one to deal with the Assam river system and the other to deal with the northern India river system, as I have suggested.

As I said, this will take a long time. What is to be done in the meanwhile? I am suggesting it for whatever it is worth, that now that the Government have experience of the maximum damage that can be done and the maximum range in which the flood waters move, their next step should be that within that region there shall be no permanent settlement till the experts have come to some conclusion and have decided upon some design and that design is put into effect or execution by the necessary organisation. I am, therefore, suggesting that if it is necessary, do not allow residents to live in the same old place, although I know how much they would like to be there. They must be shifted elsewhere and temporarily rehabilitated till, as I said, something permanent, something effective is hit upon. Otherwise, the same thing will happen. I do not want to belittle the suffering. But, what I say is that no amount of eloquence, no amount of tears that we may very genuinely shed here are going to give any relief to these people in future. I think it is a challenge to our patriotism, to our flair for organisation and, I should say also, to not only this party or that party, but it is a problem which must be dealt with on a national level. If we want to solve it within a period of years, this cannot be done with the democratic background that we have today. We must have a different variety of democracy absolutely.....

**Shri S. S. More** (Sholapur): *Hear, hear.*

**Shri Gadgil**:...and only for this purpose and not for other purposes. I am not suggesting that Mr. More should be banned from speaking. He must be heard and, if possible, he must be allowed to flood the Parliament with all the precedents and the tricks that he is capable of.

But, so far as execution is concerned, we must make up our mind. With fair wages clause inserted in every contract, with payment for overtime, with fine working conditions and this and that, if we are still wedded to these conceptions, this problem will not be solved during seven years. It may not be solved for 700 years. Therefore, if it is an urgent thing, if it is suggested that it should be treated on a war footing, then let us adopt measures which a country at war would adopt. If we honestly believe that we have somehow or other to get over this situation of annual floods in this part of the country or that part of the country, we must show a little more determination, less consideration for technicalities and form and put our heart and soul into it.

I have not the slightest doubt that so far as finances are concerned we will not lack that. After all, finance means in actual practice actual work that we put in. If people are willing to put in work, it is, after all for them and I should feel that work in this particular context on this particular project should be a first charge on every citizen who lives in the relevant area. If the Government say that every able-bodied man is conscripted, not for fighting war of a violent character but for fighting the war against floods or famine, then every able-bodied man must be satisfied with whatever he gets and should not demand and labour leaders—genuine and bogus—should not instigate them to demand, higher wages and better conditions. This is all that I have to say.

The nature of the problem is such that it cannot be solved within a short time. It is a big problem. Therefore, I again repeat my suggestion that Government should not undertake any plan unless it is based on complete data, geological, hydrological and meteorological. Otherwise, we will spend crores of rupees at one stage and then the whole thing will go to dust. About Koshi suggestions were made by some of the enthusiastic Bihar friends when I was in charge of the Ministry. Then I convinced them that if I started work as desired by them the result will be that there may be an earthquake and Rs. 150 crores will go to nothing. Not only that; the loss of life and property consequent on such an event will be colossal.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri** *rose*—

**Mr. Chairman:** Assam has already had two representatives; let other provinces also have an opportunity. Shri Atulya Ghosh.

**Shri A. Ghosh** (Burdwan): Sir, I convey my deep sense of sympathy with Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Regarding West Bengal, the situation is different from that of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. Nearly about 70 rivers in their spate cover the whole of the North Bengal area. Recently, the districts of Cooch-Bihar and Jalpaiguri were flooded. The river Teesta and Torsha whose sources are in Sikkim and Bhutan are creating havoc in these areas for the last few years. This year some 10, 15 or 20 feet of water came with great velocity in the midnight and took everything that was before them. The havoc was such that for two, three or four days the areas surrounding the affected places could not get any idea of havoc that had been created in those places. In Jalpaiguri District, in Nagar Katha Police station more than 150 persons lost their lives due to 20 feet of rushing water. The damage to property and other things in North Bengal, according to the West Bengal Government figures were these. The total area affected is 2,000 sq. miles, the total crop of paddy destroyed is 50,000 acres; the total acreage of sand deposited is 30,000 acres and the total population affected is nearly 12 lakhs. The value of total damage to private and Government property is a little over Rs. 20 crores. This is an affair which should be taken very seriously and should be considered in its proper perspective. The main difficulty is that of communications. The Assam Link Railway, which is the only connecting line between the Northern portion of Bengal and the other portions of India, that is, with Assam and North Bengal, is affected, many of its bridges have been destroyed, and the Assam national highway, which goes through Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Behar to Assam, have been washed off for miles and miles together. The disaster is terrible and you will find that in some places the rivers are flowing over the road in such a way that you will not think that there was at any time any road there. The disaster is so very horrible that it is beyond description. In Cooch-Behar town, due to erosion of the river Torsha, the houses of more than 250 families have been devoured. The whole Jalpaiguri town was under water and in that District, Alipur Duars sub-division is still inaccessible and you cannot send rice or anything to that place. In some of the police stations you cannot even light a lamp in the night due to non-supply of kerosene and the situation is so very terrible and horrible that I do not know how to convey the feelings of depression prevailing there. Something quick has to be done. I am glad that the Prime Minister, with a party of Members of Parliament, went and visited these areas, and I am sure the Transport Minister and the Communications Minister will try their level best to restore communication in those areas. Everything has to be sent by air and every piece of article for relief has to be sent there by air. How to repair all these roads and all these bridges is beyond comprehension. In the roads managed by the State Government eight big bridges have been washed away and

[Shri A. Ghosh]

46 small bridges also have been washed away. The people are feeling desolate and forlorn, and there is a sense of frustration. I am telling all these in order to appeal to the Government to make their machinery move faster. Our revered leader, Acharya Kripalani, has cited the case of China. I welcome his proposal. But, there the country is governed in a different way. There, mobilisation of people is far doing constructive work. But, here you find when the Prime Minister went to Cooch Behar, the mobilisation of people with foreign flag was there shouting for their demands, but not for any constructive work connected with the flood situation, not for restoring the highway. We find in Calcutta some communalist in the name of cow-slaugher spending lakhs of rupees but not sending a single farthing for the flood-stricken people. I welcome the proposal of Acharya Kripalani, but I should like to remind him that in China nobody dares to go with a flag to the areas where they are digging canals, nobody holds a meeting nor offers *satyagraha*, nobody starts a no-rent campaign, etc., or says "Do not give your land for digging canals because you are in possession of these lands for three or four generations". Here, the picture is different, absolutely different, and even in spite of all these things, in China this year over eighty lakhs of people have been submerged practically in floods. We cannot compare the government and the conditions of a country like China with India. I appeal to the Government to expedite all their resources and to go to the succour of the people of Cooch-Behar and Jalpaiguri and other areas. The Government of West Bengal has asked for some relief. I should appeal to the Central Government to send the money which they have asked for. For the protection of Jalpaiguri town—Rs. 1,60,00,000; for the protection of Cooch-Behar, Rs. 1,45,00,000; for the protection of Mathabhanga town, Rs. 20 lakhs; for the protection of Alipur sub-divisional town Rs. 16 lakhs; for the protection of Siluguri, Rs. 9 lakhs; and for the others, Rs. 6 lakhs. In all, it is Rs. 3,56,00,000, in these various heads. I would request the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and other concerned Ministers along with the Minister of Irrigation, to expedite the sanction of money and to take such measures which will establish the means of communication —roads and railways. With these words, I resume my seat.

**श्री एस० एन० दास** : सभापति जी, इस मौके पर सरकार को बधाई दूं या प्रकृति को बधाई दूं, यह समझ में नहीं आता । इस बार प्रकृति का प्रकोप इतना भयंकर हुआ कि, यद्यपि वह अभिशाप है, लेकिन संसद में और बाहर, सरकारी कर्मचारियों में और मंत्रियों में जो चहल पहल है या जो उत्साह है उस से मालूम होता है कि अब इस समस्या का समाधान जल्द से जल्द व तीव्रता और शीघ्रता के साथ होगा । इसीलिये मैं सोच रहा हूं कि किस को बधाई दूं । प्रकृति, जिस के प्रकोप से कई करोड़ लोग पीड़ित हैं, और जिन की दर्दनाक हालत को देखते नहीं बनता, अखबारों में जो वर्णन निकले उस को जिन्होंने पढ़ा था जिन्होंने हवाई जहाज से जाकर वहां की दशा को देखने का कष्ट किया, उन को वहां की दर्दनाक हालत का पता पूरा पूरा नहीं लगा होगा, और अखबारों में भी, जिन की कलम बहुत तेज है, जिस तरह इस दुर्दशा का चित्रण करने का प्रयत्न किया गया है, यद्यपि वे बधाई के पात्र हैं क्योंकि उन के कारण जनता और सरकार का ध्यान, सारे देश का ध्यान, नहीं नहीं, सारे संसार का ध्यान इस बाढ़ की समस्या की ओर गया है, लेकिन फिर भी मैं कहूंगा कि उन की कलम में वह शक्ति नहीं आपायी थी, चूंकि उन्होंने दुर्दशा को स्वयं देखा नहीं था इस लिये वह इस दुर्दशा का वर्णन ठीक ठीक नहीं कर सकते थे। इस लिये मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा यहां के मंत्रियों से और मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा यहां के सदस्यों से कि इस अधिवेशन के खत्म होने के बाद, यद्यपि बाढ़ अब

घट रही हैं और कष्टों में कुछ कमी आ रही हैं, फिर भी यदि वह उस इलाके में जायेंगे तो वहां की करोड़ों जनता की आह और वहां की जनता की दुर्दशा को देखने का उन्हें पूरा पूरा मौका मिलेगा। और तब वह महसूस कर सकेंगे परिस्थिति की गम्भीरता को। हमारे माननीय श्री गाडगिल साहब यहां नहीं हैं। जिस समय वह मंत्री थे उस समय उन्होंने उस क्षेत्र में जाने का साहस किया था जो कि सब से भयंकर और भीषण क्षेत्र कहा जा सकता हैं। फिर भी जिस तरह से उन्होंने आज भाषण दिया हैं उस से मालूम होता हैं कि उन्होंने अभी भी वहां की परिस्थिति की गम्भीरता को ठीक ठीक महसूस नहीं किया हैं। उनकी गोदी में जो इस विभाग के इर्रिगेशन और नदी कन्ट्रोल योजना का बच्चा था, उस बच्चे का शायद वह ठीक ठीक पालन नहीं कर सके और वह बच्चा विभिन्न मंत्रालयों की एक गोद से दूसरी गोद तक जाता रहा। इस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि सात वर्ष के बाद अब हमारी सरकार की नींद खुली हैं इस परिस्थिति की गम्भीरता को जानने के लिये। इसी लिये मैं कहता हूं कि प्रकृति ने हम पर प्रकोप नहीं किया हैं, प्रकृति ने अभिशाप के रूप में एक आशीर्वाद हमारे यहां भेजा हैं जिस के कारण संसार, इस संसद्, सरकारी करमचारियों और विशेषज्ञों तथा जो दूसरे कार्य करने वाले हैं, सब की नजर हमारी तरफ गई हैं। इसलिए मैं तो कहूंगा कि यह बाढ़ भीषणता, तीव्रता, व्यापकता, भयंकरता और संहार की दृष्टि से अभूतपूर्व तो जरूर हैं लेकिन उसके साथ साथ सरकार ने जो रुख अख्तियार किया हैं वह भी अभूतपूर्व हैं। मेरे पास बोलने का समय कम हैं क्योंकि इसमें बहुत से वक्ताओं को बोलना हैं और इसलिए समय का राशनिंग हो गया हैं। इस समय के राशनिंग की वजह से हम अपने यहां की जनता के कष्टों को अपने शब्दों द्वारा जिस ढंग से व्यक्त करना चाहते हैं दस मिनट के थोड़े समय में नहीं कर सकते। फिर भी जितना समय हैं उसमें मैं थोड़े से शब्दों में अपनी बात कहने का प्रयत्न करूंगा।

मेरा विचार यह हैं कि चाहे वह लोकतंत्रीय सरकार हो, या नौकर शाही सरकार हो या कोई दूसरे प्रकार की सरकार हो, उसका काम धीरे ही होता हैं। रूस और चीन के बारे में मैं ने पढ़ा हैं, मुझे देखने का तो अवसर नहीं मिला, कि वहां पर भी ऐसी समस्यायें हैं और वहां उनको हल करने का अधिक से अधिक प्रयत्न किया जा रहा हैं लेकिन वहां भी वे अभी पूरी तरह से हल नहीं की जा सकी हैं। जो वक्तव्य हमारे मंत्री जी ने लोक सभा के सामने रखा हैं उसके पढ़ने से मालूम होता हैं कि वे इसकी गम्भीरता को महसूस करते हैं। इसके लिए मैं उनको बधाई देना चाहता हूं। लेकिन अब तक सरकार का इस समस्या की तरफ जो रवैया रहा हैं उसको मैं उन्हीं के शब्दों में बतलाना चाहता हूं। उन्होंने उस वक्तव्य में कहा हैं।

> "Each time a heavy flood is experienced, it has been the practice for the States to meet the situation by the adoption of certain emergency measures as remission of land revenue, grant of loans, etc. designed to mitigate the hardships. Flood Committees have also been appointed from time to time by the various States but the recommendations for the most part remained a dead letter."

सरकार का यह एटीट्यूड रहा हैं, यही रुख रहा हूं कि इस बाढ़ की भयंकरता को देख कर घोड़े दौड़ते हैं, वे एक विभाग से दूसरे विभाग में जाते हैं और जबतक बीमारों को दवा पहुंचाने का इन्तिजाम होता हैं तबतक बीमार खत्म हो जाता हैं। यह सरकार की हालत हैं। लेकिन इस बार जो सरकार का ध्यान इस समस्या की ओर गया हैं उसके लिए मैं उसको बधाई देता हूं। मैं इस बार प्रसन्नता से देख रहा हूं कि इस बाढ़ की भयंकरता को देखकर केन्द्र और राज्य की सरकारों का सिंहासन डोल गया हैं। जो दिल्ली सदा जनता से दूर रहती रही हैं वह भी अब जन समस्या को अपनाने लगी हैं। आज इस समस्या की भयंकरता

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

सामने हैं, चारों तरफ से आवाज आ रही है, इस लिए हमारे मंत्री जी ने केन्द्रीय कंट्रोल बोर्ड और राज्य कंट्रोल बोर्ड शीघ्र बना डाले हैं । लेकिन ये संस्थायें काम करेंगी या नहीं, इस विषय में जनता को अभी विश्वास नहीं है । जनता की यह मुख्य शिकायत है कि यह समस्या तेजी और शीघ्रता के साथ हल नहीं की जा रही है । वह हमसे बराबर यही पूछती है कि हमारी यह समस्या कब हल होगी । जब से स्वराज्य आया है तब से कोई वर्ष ऐसा नहीं हुआ जब कि कहीं-न-कहीं बाढ़ न आयी हो । हम जब ऐसे संकटों के समय जनता के पास जाते हैं तो वे हमसे चावल नहीं मांगते, और कोई दूसरी चीज नहीं मांगते । वे हम से सिर्फ यही पूछते हैं कि हमारी इस तकलीफ का अन्त कब होगा। वे पूछते हैं कि क्या इन नदियों के नहीं अन्त होने वाले प्रकोपों से बचाने के लिए कोई निश्चित योजना सचमुच आयेगी ? हम उनसे बार बार कहते हैं कि राज्य सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में जांच कर रही है, आंकड़े इकट्ठा कर रही है । लेकिन अब सात वर्ष तक यह सुनते रहने के बाद उनका विश्वास इन बातों से हटने लगा है । उनको ऐसा विश्वास होने लगा है शायद इस समस्या का समाधान होने वाला नहीं है । लेकिन वहां के लोग सहिष्णु हैं । उन्होंने बराबर प्रकृति के प्रकोप का साहस के साथ सामना किया है, और मैं समझता हूं कि यदि सरकार इसका कोई इन्तिजाम नहीं भी करेगी तो भी वहां की जनता इस प्रकोप का सामना उसी प्रकार करती रहेगी जैसा कि बहुत काल से करती आ रही है । पर ऐसी हालत में इन सरकारों का क्या हाल होगा, यह समय आने पर ही पता चलेगा । अब देखना यही है कि राज्य सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या करती है ? मुझे विश्वास है कि जनता के प्रतिनिधि जो कि राज्य सरकार में काम कर रहे हैं और जो केन्द्रीय सरकार में हैं इस विषय में जरूर कुछ करेंगे । सात वर्ष तो क्या, मैं तो कहता हूं कि चाहे यह काम १४ वर्ष में पूरा हो, लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि जो कदम (स्टेप) आगे रखा जाय वह सही दिशा में शीघ्र उठाया जाय । और अगर वास्तव में कुछ काम किया जायेगा और यह केवल कागजी योजना ही नहीं रहेगी तो जनता को विश्वास हो जायेगा कि हमारे लिए कुछ किया जा रहा है ।

मेरे और मित्रों ने बतलाया है कि क्षतिग्रस्त स्थानों पर क्या तकलीफ है और मंत्री जी ने भी अपने वक्तव्य में इसका वर्णन दिया है । इसलिए मैं क्षति की व्यापकता और तत्सम्बन्धी आंकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहता। मैं तो सिर्फ यही कहना चाहता हूं कि उस समस्या के दो मुख्य पहलू हैं। उन दोनों पर मैं उनका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। एक तो यह कि बाढ़ का नियंत्रण कैसे होना चाहिए और दूसरा यह कि सहायता कार्य किस प्रकार किया जाय । हिन्दुस्तान जन-शक्ति से तो सम्पन्न है ही । यहां जल की शक्ति भी बहुत है और हमारी खानों में भी बहुत धन है । अगर हम अपनी जन शक्ति का, जल शक्ति का और दूसरी शक्ति का ठीक से विकास कर सकें तो हमारी सारी समस्याओं का समाधान हो सकता है । इसमें विज्ञान हमारा सहायक होगा । विज्ञान के द्वारा ऐसा विकास हो सकता है जिससे ध्वंसकारी प्रवृत्ति वाली नदियां निर्माण के कार्य करती रहेंगी । सरकार जो कुछ कर सकती है, वह कर रही है लेकिन इससे जनता को जितना संतोष होना चाहिए वह नहीं हो रहा है । मैं ने मंत्री महोदय का जो वक्तव्य पढ़ा है उससे यह स्पष्ट है । पहली चीज तो यह है कि तुरंत काम शुरू होना चाहिए । हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि १५ सितम्बर को मीटिंग होने वाली है । मैं समझता हूं कि अब उस दिशा में सही कदम शीघ्रता से उठाया जायगा ।

सहायता के सम्बन्ध में मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं । यह सही है कि सरकार जो कुछ खाने पीने का सामान पहुंचा सकती है वह पहुंचा

रही हैं । लेकिन जिस तरीके से यह राशन बंटता है उसको देखने से मालूम होता है कि यह काम संतोषजनक रीति से नहीं हो रहा है । सरकार की तरफ से जो रिपोर्ट मिली है उससे मालूम होता है कि सहायता के काम में तेजी लाने के लिए जोर लगाया जा रहा है । मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जो सहायता का काम किया गया है वह काफी नहीं है । मैं सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उसने और जिला के सरकारी अधिकारियों ने पीड़ितों की सहायता के लिये व्यापक संगठन खड़ा कर लिया है । लेकिन सहायता पहुंचाने का काम जिस ढंग और पद्धति से किया जा रहा है उसमें लोगों को काफी दिक्कत होती है । लोगों का कहना है कि उनको अपने गांवों से सहायता के केन्द्र तक अनाज लेने के लिए आना पड़ता है तो उनको ऐसा मालूम होता है कि वे भीख लेने आ रहे हैं । मैं यह चाहता हूं कि यह काम इस तरह किया जाय कि यह सहायता उनको उनके घर पर ही मिले । मैं जानता हूं कि ऐसा नावों के अभाव के कारण नहीं हो सकता है । मैं गवर्नमेंट को सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि आगे से बाढ़ के इलाके में जनसंख्या के अनुसार हर गांव में दो दो, तीन तीन, चार चार नावें रखने का प्रबन्ध किया जाय ताकि आवश्यकता पड़ने पर उनसे काम लिया जा सके । यह बाढ़ निरोधक कार्य साल दो साल में तो खत्म होने वाला नहीं है । इसलिए अगर आगे कोई ऐसा अवसर आवे तो उस समय सहायता के लिए नावें रखना अति आवश्यक है । ताकि ऐसा न हो कि हम ऐसे समय पर उनके घर जाकर सहायता न कर सकें ।

दूसरी बात जो मैं देख रहा हूं वह यह है कि इन बाढ़ के इलाकों में बाढ़ के समय पीने के पानी का बहुत बड़ा अभाव हो जाता है जिससे हजारों आदमियों को बीमारियां हो जाती हैं । इसलिए मेरा सुझाव यह है कि इन बाढ़ के इलाके के गांवों में जनसंख्या के अनुसार एक एक दो दो ट्यूब वैल बना दिये जाएं ताकि बाढ़ के समय में लोगों को पीने के पानी का कष्ट न उठाना पड़े । पर यह काम सिर्फ राज्य की सरकार नहीं कर सकती । इस काम के लिये केन्द्र को काफी रुपये की सहायता करनी चाहिये । तीसरी बात मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो सहायता केन्द्रीय सरकार या राज्य देना चाहती है उसका वितरण ग्राम पंचायतों के द्वारा होना चाहिए । इसके लिए जो बाढ़ के इलाके गांव हैं उनमें से हर एक में एक एक पंचायत होनी चाहिए जो कि बाढ़ के समय यह काम संभाले । जो जिले के अधिकारी इस काम को करने के लिए जाते हैं उनके आने जाने में बहुत समय और खर्च होता है । अगर हर गांव में पंचायत होगी तो वह यह काम अच्छी तरह से और आसानी से कर सकेगी । इसलिए बिना विलम्ब के बाढ़ पीड़ित हर गांव में एक पंचायत कायम करनी चाहिए और उसे पर्याप्त-अधिकार देकर उसी के जरिये से यह सहायता का काम होना चाहिए । अभी इस काम में कहीं कहीं से करप्शन (भ्रष्टाचार) की भी शिकायत आ रही है । अगर उसको रोकने का कोई तरीका है तो यही कि पंचायत के जरिये से सहायता देने का काम किया जाये । जिला के हैडक्वार्टर्स से या सबडिवीजन के हैडक्वार्टर्स से उनको यह बतला दिया जाय कि इतनी सहायता दी जानी है । और उसको दिये जाने का स्थान बता दिया जाय । बाकी काम इन पंचायतों से कराया जाय ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी केन्द्रीय सरकार को और सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने इस सभा को बाढ़ से उत्पन्न परिस्थिति पर विचार करने का मौका दिया है और उन्होंने इस समस्या को शीघ्र हल करने का पक्का इरादा कर लिया है और मुझे विश्वास है कि जो भी प्रयत्न किया जायगा वह जल्दी ही किया जायगा और जो योजनायें हैं या आगे बनेंगी वे जल्दी से जल्दी कार्य रूप में परिणत होंगी ।

**श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह** (दरभंगा पूर्व): मैं माननीय योजना मंत्री को धन्यवाद दिये बगैर नहीं रह सकता जिन्होंने आज इस सदन में देश के उत्तर-पूर्वीय आंचल में बाढ़ तथा बाढ़ से

[श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह]

उत्पन्न परिस्थिति पर विचार करने के लिये संसद् को मौका दिया है । वैसे तो पहले भी इस आंचल में बाढ़ आती थी किन्तु इस साल की बाढ़ एक दम अप्रत्याशित तथा अभूतपूर्व है । और जगहों का तो मुझे व्यक्तिगत अनुभव नहीं है, किन्तु उत्तरी बिहार की बाढ़ को, जिसे मैं ने स्वयं देखा है, मैं माननीय मंत्री के समक्ष उसकी विभीषिका तथा क्षति और उससे बचने के लिये कुछ सुझाव भी रखना चाहता हूं ।

उत्तर बिहार की नदियों में कोसी नदी सबसे बड़ी है और उसी से ज्यादा क्षति होती है । यों तो उस नदी में मई महीने से ही बाढ़ का आना प्रारम्भ हो गया था और उसको ठीक ही अभिशाप की नदी कहा जाता है और कोसी की समस्या से तो सदन के अधिकांश सदस्य परिचित हैं ही और वह तो एक अभिशाप की नदी है और उसके नियन्त्रण की योजना पंचवर्षीय योजना में हो चुकी है और इस सदन के बहुत से सदस्य उससे परिचित हैं । मुझे कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कहना है किन्तु दुःख के साथ इतना ही कहना पड़ता है कि जिस तीव्रता के साथ उस योजना को कार्यान्वित करना चाहिये था, उस तीव्रता के साथ काम नहीं हो रहा है, तथा कोसी के आंचल में बसने वालों को कष्ट घटने के बजाय दिन प्रति दिन बढ़ ही रहा है और अब तो लोगों का धीरज टूट रहा है, यह सही है कि असंगठित रूप से या व्यक्तिगत रूप से प्रकृति के प्रकोपों से लड़ा नहीं जा सकता। बात यह है कि उत्तर बिहार में बहने वाली जितनी नदियां हैं, वे प्रायः सारी की सारी नेपाल से आती हैं और बिहार की भूमि में आकर ही उन नदियों को बहने के लिये समतल भूमि मिलती है । पहले नदियों के निश्चित धार बने हुये थे, किन्तु अब उन धारों में मिट्टी भर जाने से गहराई नहीं के बराबर रह गयी है अतः पानी का फैलाव बहुत विस्तृत हो जाता है । दूसरी बात यह है कि अब नेपाल की तराई में जंगल नहीं रहा जो पानी की धार की तीव्रता को रोक सके । फल यह होता है कि पानी की तेज धारा केवल जमीन को काटती ही नहीं है वरन् उस से उर्वरा भूमि भी मरुभूमि बन जाती है । इससे उत्तर बिहार का वर्त्तमान ही नहीं भविष्य भी अंधकारमय हो रहा है । और अगर उत्तर बिहार का कोई इंतजाम नहीं किया गया तो भविष्य भी अंधकारमय ही प्रतीत होता है ।

खैर इस साल हिमालय तथा नेपाल में एक साथ अत्यधिक वर्षा के कारण गत २४ जुलाई को दरभंगा, मुजफ्फरपुर, चम्पारन, पूर्णिया तथा सहरसा में बाढ़ आयी जहां पहले कभी बाढ़ नहीं आ जाती थी, इसके लिये न तो लोग ही प्रस्तुत थे, और न सरकार ही । यह आपको ज्ञात ही है कि ट्रावनकोर कोचीन राज्य को छोड़ कर उत्तरी बिहार की आबादी सब से घनी है और रोजी का दूसरा साधन नहीं रहने के कारण वहां के लोगों की जीविका खेती पर निर्भर है : फलतः इसकी इंच-इंच जमीन में खेती होती है और पानी के स्वाभाविक बहाव को इससे भी रुकावट होती है और इससे भी बाढ़ की भयंकरता बढ़ जाती है। खैर जुलाई की बाढ़ से जितने भी खेत आबाद थे बह गये और सबसे दुखद बात यह हुई कि भदई की खड़ी फसल जो चन्द ही दिनों में तैयार होने वाली थी सब की सब बह गयी । इससे लोगों का धीरज जाता रहा, फिर भी किसानों ने साहस बटोर कर धान की खेती को पुनः आबाद किया किन्तु मध्य अगस्त की बाढ़ ने तो उन्हें बर्बाद कर दिया । अब न तो किसानों के पास पूंजी है, न खेती की चीजें उपलब्ध हैं और न समय ही रह गया है, अतः समस्या की जटिलता का इसी से अन्दाजा लगाया जा सकता है ।

दूसरी समस्या उत्तर बिहार के यातायात को पूर्व स्थिति में लाने की है । एक तो वैसे भी उत्तर बिहार में सड़कें कम थीं और आज कोई ऐसी मुख्य सड़क बाकी नहीं रह गई है जो बाढ़ से बरबाद न हो गई हो। रेलवेज की भी यही दशा है । यातायात के साधनों को भी प्राथमिकता देकर मरम्मत कराना होगा, नहीं तो उत्तर बिहार का आर्थिक जीवन ठप्प पड़

जायेगा । इसमें विलम्ब होने से लोगों का दुःख और कष्ट और बढ़ जाएगा। तीसरा कष्ट पीने के पानी के अभाव का है । मैंने अपनी आंखों से बाढ़-ग्रस्त क्षेत्र के लोगों को होने वाला पीने के पानी का कष्ट अनुभव किया है । पांच, पांच मील तक जाकर भी लोगों को पीने का पानी नहीं मिलता था, कारण सब कुएं बाढ़ में डूब गये थे । मैंने अपनी आंखों से लोगों को नाव पर चढ़ कर रेलवे स्टेशनों के नल कूप से पानी भर कर लाते देखा है । यह भी एक विकट समस्या है और जब तक बाढ़ पूर्ण तौर से नियंत्रित नहीं की जाती है तबतक बाढ़ ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में नल कूपों से पीने के पानी के मिलने की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी ।

बाढ़ में कितने आदमी तथा मवेशी डूब कर मरे हैं इसके आंकड़े सरकार के पास हैं हीं । इस पर मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता किन्तु जो मवेशी बच गये हैं उनके खिलाने की भी समस्या जटिल हो गयी है । उसकी व्यवस्था भी होनी चाहिये । अन्न के अभाव तथा खराब पानी पीने के कारण किसी किसी आंचल में संक्रामक बीमारियां फैल चुकी हैं अतः इसके आक्रमण को रोकने का प्रबन्ध मुस्तैदी से होना चाहिये । अगर हम मवेशियों की रक्षा का प्रबन्ध नहीं करेंगे तो रबी की फसल की खेत में हल जोतने में बाधा पड़ेगी। राज्य सरकार ने भारत सरकार की मदद से लोगों के कष्ट निवारणार्थ जो काम किये हैं उसके लिये वह धन्यवाद की पात्र है तथा भारत सरकार ने जो आसाम तथा बिहार की बाढ़ के लिए दो करोड़ पर ५० फी सदी और दो करोड़ से ज्यादा पर ७५ फी सदी लोगों की सहायता करने के लिये खर्च करने का भार वहन करने का जो आश्वासन दिया है उसके लिये उत्तर बिहार के लोग आभारी हैं किन्तु तात्कालिक सहायता समस्या का हल नहीं है । समस्या की गुरुता को देखते हुए कोई भी राज्य सरकार अपने बल पर लोगों को पर्याप्त सहायता नहीं दे सकती अतः उम्मीद है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार और भी उदारतापूर्वक अनुदान देकर समस्या को हल करने में सहायक होगी । वैसे तो केवल बिहार में ही पिछले पांच वर्षों में बाढ़ ग्रस्तों की सहायता में १६ करोड़ रुपये खर्च हो चुके हैं । जितने उत्तर बिहार की बाढ़ को स्वयं नहीं देखा है उसे बाढ़ की भीषणता तथा लोगों के कष्ट का अन्दाजा हो ही नहीं सकता और मैं बहुत ही विनम्रता के साथ कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकारी तौर पर बाढ़ से हुई क्षति के जो आंकड़े इकट्ठे किये गये हैं वे वास्तविकता से दूर हैं तथा सरकारी आंकड़ों में दी गई क्षति से असल में क्षति की मात्रा कहीं अधिक है ।

अब उत्तर बिहार में समस्या उठ खड़ी हुई है भीषण अकाल की । इसमें यद्यपि सरकार लोगों की सहायता के लिये सतर्क है तो भी और अधिक सतर्कता उसे बर्तनी होगी । अब धान की खेती होना असम्भव है । रबी के बीज जो लोगों के पास थे, लोगों ने सभी खर्च कर दिये । अतः रबी के अच्छे बीजों की उपलब्धि समय पर ही हो जानी चाहिये । अब रही समस्या के स्थायी हल की बात । उसके लिये जहां तक गंगा और ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी घाटी कमीशन गठित होने की बात है, सही है और इससे सरकार की कर्त्तव्य-परायणता तथा तत्परता जाहिर होती है और मुझे विश्वास है कि सरकार अगली बरसात के पहले बाढ़ जन्य पानी को रोकने का पूरा उपाय करेगी । किन्तु उत्तरी बिहार में दूसरी छोटी नदियों से भी कम नुकसान नहीं होता है । मजा तो यह है कि इन नदियों की बाढ़ इतने अप्रत्याशित रूप से आती है कि उसके लिये न तो सरकार ही तैयार रहती है न लोग ही । क्योंकि उन नदियों में हर साल बाढ़ आती है और यह एक परमानेन्ट फीचर है, इसलिये उसके नियन्त्रण के लिये प्रबन्ध करना होगा, उसके लिए बाढ़ ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में बसने वाले लोगों से भी काफी सहयोग मिलेगा। कोसी को छोड़ कर गंडक उत्तरी बिहार की सबसे बड़ी नदी है और छोटी छोटी नदियों का पानी मिल करके एक बृहत जलराशि और जलद्वीप के समान बन जाती है । नियन्त्रण होने से इसी पानी को लोगों के फायदे के काम में लगाया जा सकता है :

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उत्तर बिहार का क्षेत्रफल करीब साढ़े इक्कीस हजार वर्ग मील है । और उसे हिमालय तथा नेपाल के साठ हजार वर्ग मील के वर्षा के पानी को आश्रय देना पड़ता है और उत्तरी बिहार की नदियों की धारा की गहराई के अभाव में यह संभव नहीं कि गंगा के मार्फत उस पानी को समुद्र में पहुंचा दें अतः जब तक एक नियोजित ढंग से इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं होगा, बाढ़ की विभीषिका से उत्तर बिहार को त्राण नहीं । १९३४ से आज तक उत्तर बिहार प्राकृतिक विभीषिकाओं का शिकार है। न जाने उसके भाग्य में क्या बदा है । अतः हमारी प्रार्थना इस सरकार से है कि बाढ़ की विभीषिका से उत्तर बिहार को बचाने के लिये बाढ़ नियन्त्रण योजना को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दें ।

**Mr. Chairman:** Shri A. P. Sinha: Is the hon. Member not present?

**Shri B. C. Das** (Ganjam South): Why is it that only the Congress Members are allowed to speak? Members on this side have not been allowed to speak. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Chairman:** It is the discretion of the Chair to call hon. Members. If the hon. Member goes through the list, he will see that I am calling State by State, which has been affected.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** We are discussing what has been a national calamity, pretty unprecedented, as or as duration, extent and intensity are concerned. Whether it is in North Bengal or Bihar or Assam or Uttar Pradesh, nothing like the recent floods has happened in recent memory.

Now, some of us were enabled by the good offices of the Prime Minister to see the enormous damage which the floods have caused. This damage includes phenomenal loss of property and also large-scale loss of lives. I find in particular that as far as loss of lives is concerned, the West Bengal figure 142 is the highest, and I hope the hon. Minister will give us some explanation, the reason why the West Bengal figure of death is so high. When we saw in North Bihar large tracts which were under water as far as the eye could reach, or when we saw the angry Brahmaputra tearing away noble trees and swallowing them in a trice, it was a really unforgettable spectacle. But it is no time to be reminiscent on those things. We have to find out ways and means of avoiding this kind of calamity in the future.

For rivers, we in this country have a very special feeling. I come from a part of the country which is called Nadimatrika, mothered by rivers, and it is notable that while the Germans call the Rhine as *Vater Rhein* (Father Rhine), the Ganga is mother to us. And though there are a few naughty *nads*—it is rather symbolic, they are not *nadis*, but *nads*—like the Damodar and the Brahmaputra, even their gambol is appreciated. There is no reason why in this age of science, we should not make sure that the naughty pranks of these rivers do not lead only to havoc. We should make sure that floods lead to fertilisation and not destruction.

Neglect of irrigation is a British legacy, which, I am afraid, in spite of certain congratulations showered upon Government, this administration is continuing. In regard to this, many of us will remember what was said by Sir William Wilcox, who was a distinguished hydraulic engineer, whose name was associated with gigantic schemes in Egypt and Mesopotamia, and who concluded on very sound evidence, that formerly there were canals, especially in the Bengal area which distributed flood waters of the Ganges and provided for proper drainage on the land, and that undoubtedly accounted for the prosperity of Bengal which lured the rapacious East India Company. In British times, not only was nothing done to utilise and improve the original canal system, but railway embankments were thrown up entirely

destroying it. And this was shown in a report of the Bengal Irrigation Department Committee in 1930, which said:

> "Central Bengal is at present a decadent tract. It is highly malarious. The population is steadily decreasing, and the land is going out of cultivation. It may, of course, be the case that deterioration has proceeded so far that it cannot be checked, and that the tract in question is doomed to revert greatly into swamp and jungle."

That was the British achievement. And that reminds me how thirty years ago almost to a day, on the 24th September 1924, my dear and honoured friend Shri B. Das moved in the Legislative Assembly of those days, a resolution on the flood situation in that year. He made a striking speech in which he talked about this "permanently inflicted calamity on the people of India." He said:

> "If the Government have a soul and have considered it necessary to make a grant, why should they not consider same means by which the causes of these floods may be removed? What is the use of throwing crumbs of bread to the sufferers of the floods? What is the use of famine codes and famine funds? Remove the causes of floods".

That was what was said by my friend, Mr. B. Das. I am afraid we are still more or less in the same position as we were before 1947. Seven years of independence have not brought about that change which, I am sure, we are entitled to. In any case, what we want is that there should be concentration of interest on long-term solutions, and then, also on short-term measures of relief and rehabilitation. As far as long-term solutions are concerned, for the entire north east zone, there should be a kind of integrated planning. Many different States like Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, India and Pakistan are involved. I understand that at a conference in New Delhi held at the instance of the ECAFE three years ago, it was suggested that something tangible should be done about this area. But nothing has been done so far. It is good that the Minister now wants a co-ordinated plan. We welcome the idea of the formation of a Central Food Control Board and Flood Control Boards at the States and we hope that something really positive, tangible and concrete will come. But from the way the Government have operated in the past, from the character of the Government, from their association with apparently ineradicable bureaucratic methods, our expectations, naturally, are rather diluted. Perhaps in Assam something like the DVC might be necessary to train and tame the Brahmaputra; perhaps the lovely Teesta, tripping down the hills, when it surges uglily in the plains, has got to be controlled. Perhaps there must be some sort of scheme, realisable as quick as possible—multipurpose river valley projects—which would bring about the necessary all-round development of this region and which would be the presage of a new economic life.

Now, we have heard sometimes that nature should not be tampered with. The Prime Minister made a statement the other day wherein he said that we should not go too far. Now, we know that nature, to be commanded, has to be obeyed. Freedom, as a great philosopher said, is the recognition of necessity. Merely by taking thought to ourselves, we cannot add a cubit to our stature. Man could not learn to fly if he did not know that there were certain physical laws which made it impossible for him to fly. But at the same time, today science has reached such a stage that knowledge is power in every sense of the term. That is why I do not understand why a Minister of West Bengal, Mr. P. C. Sen, spoke in the way he did when he said at page 8

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of his own speech which is supplied to us:

> "Any comprehensive measure to control the floods would involve control of not one, two or eight rivers, but of all the hundred rivers and their tributaries and branches. This is a near impossibility. One is almost tempted to say that man's powers over nature are limited".

I say to Government: away with kind of inhibition, away with this kind of idea. Let us have bold and scientific methods to do what is absolutely necessary in the country's situation today. We know there are so many instances of Government's indifference and neglect. In Assam, there was an earthquake in 1950 and we were told that there were changes in the course of the rivers. But nothing, as far as we are concerned and as far as we know, has been done concretely in order to find out the root-cause of what has happened, in order to find out what exactly has happened, in order to find out what are the repercussions likely to operate on the territory of Assam. In West Bengal, the Teesta Survey Committee was set up before Partition. The Committee did not complete its work, but had collected a great deal of data. But the data are just shelved. In the 1952 floods in West Bengal, the Assam rail link was broken, but it was not taken seriously by the Government of the day. This kind of neglect has gone on. I see also that there is recognition in Government pronouncements how this kind of neglect has gone on too far. Mr. Nanda, in the statement which he made on the 3rd September, says: "in Assam committees were appointed in 1929, 1934, 1947 and 1950 and they suggested the collection of hydrological and other data. They appointed two committees in 1926 but few, if any, of the recommendations were carried out. Very little was done in West Bengal to implement the recommendations of a Flood Committee which was appointed in 1922." This is what Mr. Nanda himself admits. If it is a question which has got to be tackled, let us not be niggardly. The Bihar Chief Minister has given us figures as to the amount of money which is being wasted and which has got to be spent on account of the flood danger. If you remember that, then let us not be niggardly and parsimonious in regard to the operations which are necessary for recasting the shape and structure of our country.

I turn now to the task of dealing with the ravages caused. It is equally urgent everywhere. I do not speak for any one particular area or region. I say it is equally urgent everywhere and that is why I said we are too slow. I had the advantage of going with the Prime Minister and seeing some of the areas concerned. We have noticed instances of complacency. For example, I will say this about Dibrugarh.

We saw erosion before our eyes; it was very striking, it was almost awe-inspiring. But, at the same time, I got an impression that we were being shown the erosion as a kind of show-piece. We were taken about by a Minister who was an extremely pleasant and companionable person but he apparently took a lot of pride in being able to show us the Brahmaputra eroding away the whole town. There was an impression of frivolity about the whole thing. I do not understand how in Dibrugarh there was not that sense of emergency. I noted the feelings of the people who were crowding all round the places. But they were numb, they had nothing to do. They were not called upon by the Government to do something effectively. I met there medical students, who, as Mr. Sarmah pointed out had worked night and day on revetments, said that there was much work to do but they were not being told how to set about it. They said, 'we are willing and ready to work but we are not

given work which we can do'. There was very little desire to mobilise the people still and we found that Dibrugarh was being placarded, as it were as a sort of show-piece.

We found that there was lack of transport, particularly for non-officials vacating in the danger areas. The emergency was not really being treated as an emergency and this is an instance where we find the Government's complacency coming into the picture

The other day in the Council of States—the Rajya Sabha as it is presently called—our Minister for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai showed a certain spirit, which I am sorry to have to characterise as nothing but sheer complacency. He talked about the damage in Cooch-Behar being negligible, and said that the crop had not suffered. 'In Jalpaiguri there was still water and I saw paddy just above the water'. He went on in that strain. I do not know why he forgot that there are some areas still in jalpaiguri district which are completely isolated and inaccessible. There was no water when the Minister flew over the place and the Minister should have remembered—or at least should have kept mum over the matter—he should have remembered that this was a submontane region, that the hill torrents come down in flood and created havoc. They destroyed everything in the way. He should have remembered that in that area in North Bengal there were three successive floods. He should have remembered that the transplanted crops were damaged very badly; he should have remembered that sand in some places had accumulated in such quantities that even engineers told us definitely that for many years to come, agriculture would be impossible. Something of the same sort has happened in the Jhansi area, where sand has accumulated in such a fashion that agricultural operations are altogether impossible. I wish Mr. Kidwai all joy for having done whatever he has done for the food problem in this country. But, I do not understand how a Minister of the Government gets up in the Houses of Parliament and says that there is nothing very much to worry about as far as West Bengal is concerned. There is a hell of a lot to worry about as far as West Bengal's agriculture is concerned.

In regard to relief and rehabilitation, there are so many things, shelter, sustenance, medical relief, economic recovery and so on and so forth. What is being done in West Bengal? I have got a sheaf of papers with me, which I would like, if I may, to pass on to Government, which suggest that relief is absolutely inadequate, and also complain about how relief is being given. In Cooch-Behar, it is given at the rate of 14 annas per adult and 7 annas per child; this also is not being given on as wide a scale as is necessary, and while prices are sky-rocketing Government is not doing anything to ensure that supply of food is available to the people. I find also that there is a definite complaint, wherever we went in Bihar, in Assam, in North Bengal and in Cooch Behar, people came and told us that there was discrimination as far as relief operations were concerned. I can quote to you, if there is time, reports and speeches made in the West Bengal Assembly by Ministers of Government who stated that the Congress Party is collecting money, that the Congress Party is a great Party and the others are very welcome to do what they can, but we shall go ahead. This is the type of spirit displayed by them and that is entirely wrong. Last year, about this time, some of us, Members of Parliament, were trying to play some sort of cricket in aid of Prime Minister's Relief Fund. When we raised that money, we did not raise it for the Congress Party. We do not want Ministers of Government in their official capacity talking about raising funds for the Congress Party, and so on and so forth, and under-rating the work

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which is being sought to be done in spite of all sorts of difficulties by the other Parties. What I am suggesting is this. We offer all co-operation; we are ready to come forward and help you in every respect; let us all work together; let us work in a different spirit from the one which Government has displayed so far.

As far as North Bengal is concerned, I have got repeated evidence to the effect that there is discrimination as far as operations of relief are concerned.

I have heard in this debate references over and over again to what has happened in China. It is a good job that at long last we are beginning to wake up to the realisation of the sea-change which has happened in China and I am very happy to note that a team of our engineers went to China and have come back with their report, which is here for all to see. I have heard also the idea being bruited about that we should try to do something on those lines (*Interruption*), but at the same time I have heard Mr. Gadgil and Mr. Ghosh who said "In China you do not get any people shouting against the Government and that is why everything is done so well there. Here in this country you get people shouting against the Government and how could you do it so well as China". Yes, that is the crux of the matter. How is it that in China this has happened? Do you say that it is by compulsion? The report of the engineers has not suggested that at all. The people who work have got a feeling that they are building their own country nearer to their heart's desire. They know that the country belongs to themselves. In China there has happened a revolution, which in this country has not happened. We are unfortunately paying for our original sin, for what happened on the 15th of August 1947, and that is why we have not got the glow of freedom in our hearts. That is why I do not find any exhilaration among the common people which will make them come forward and take over the task which Government is as yet unable to do. That is the lesson of China. When you get the people together, when you touch their heart-strings, when you give them the realisation that those who were tyrannising over them for generations are no longer going to have the cream of their land, and labour, when you give the people the realisation that the country belongs to those that work for the country, it is only then that you can get a real, psychological change, and that is the kind of change which we want in this country. That is a change unfortunately which this Government is not working for. That is why I have not very high expectations of what might happen, but even so, in spite of your limitations, come forward and do something concrete and tangible. Do not keep yourself exclusive and away from the common people. Let us get together, all of us let us pool our resources and then surely, for long term measures as well as short team measures, we shall be able to launch upon such a programme as will bring about a rapid change in the situation and will make it impossible for any calamities like the present to recur in this country.

श्री ए० पी० सिन्हा : सभापति जी, उत्तर बिहार में या उत्तर बंगाल में, आसाम में, और उत्तर प्रदेश में बाढ़ की जो आपत्ति आई, उसको लेकर जो हाउस में अभी बहस हुई है, उसमें कुछ बातें ऐसी कही गयीं जिससे आज की परिस्थिति से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है और लोगों को यह कहना है कि राजनैतिक मतभेदों को छोड़ कर हम इस काम में सहयोग दें और हाथ बटाएं। परन्तु हमने इस परिस्थिति में भी देखा कि सिवाय इसके कि राजनैतिक मतभेद पर जोर दें और काम करने की बात में ने नहीं देखी, लेकिन मैं उसमें नहीं पड़ना चाहता, मैं उससे अलग रहना चाहता हूं। पहले मैं आपको उसकी तस्वीर बताना चाहता हूं कि

इस मर्तबा जिस प्रकार की बाढ़ उत्तरी बिहार में आई वैसी पिछले साठ, सत्तर वर्षों में कभी नहीं आई। मेरी उम्र पचास की होने आयी, मैं वहां का रहने वाला हूं। मैंने बचपन से बाढ़ें देखी हैं, पानी मेरे लिए एक प्यार और खेल की चीज रही है और हर साल हम बाढ़ का स्वागत करते हैं लेकिन इस तरह की बाढ़ साठ सत्तर वर्ष बाद आई है, ऐसी बाढ़ इससे पहले कभी नहीं आई और नन्दा साहब जब अपने अफसरों के साथ बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों का हवाई जहाज से दौरा कर रहे थे तो मेरी उनसे बातचीत हुई थी और मैंने उनसे कहा कि हवाई जहाज से अगर आप बंगाल, आसाम, बिहार और उत्तरप्रदेश के जल-प्लावित स्थान देख लेंगे तो ऐसा करके आप बाढ़ रोकने के काम में कोई मदद नहीं कर सकते। आप नेपाल के ऊपर उड़िये, तिब्बत और भूटान पर भी जाइये क्योंकि २०, २१ और २२ जुलाई को तीन दिनों तक काठमांडू में और नेपाल में जो वर्षा हुई, उसके सम्बन्ध में हमारे मित्र जो नेपाल और काठमांडू के रहने वाले हैं उन लोगों ने कहा, ८०, ९० वर्ष के काठमांडू में रहने वाले बूढ़ों ने भी कहा कि ऐसी मूसलाधार वर्षा, तीन दिन तक लगातार उनकी जिन्दगी में कभी नहीं हुई, और वह पानी जब उत्तर बिहार में आया तो यह कहा जाता है कि नदियों के अलावा, सीधे जमीन से, खेत से पानी बह कर आया, पानी के लिए कोई नदी ही रास्ता न थी, यह एक बाढ़ नहीं थी बल्कि एक प्रलय था जो हमारे यहां आया। हमारे श्री एस० एन० दास ने जो यह कहा कि राज्य सरकार ने बाढ़ रोकने के लिये काम नहीं किया, यह थोड़ी उन्होंने गलतबयानी की। हमारी बिहार की सरकार ने लाखों रुपया पिछले साल की बाढ़ की वजह से एमर्जेंसी कमेंटस बनाने के लिए लगाया, लेकिन बाढ़ का पानी इतना आया कि वह ओवरटाप करके पानी बह गया, अब भला क्या किया जा सकता था। बिहार सरकार ने काफी इस दिशा में प्रयत्न किया है लेकिन भगवान के कोप से कौन पार पा सकता है, लोगों को घोर तकलीफ हुई और मैं अपने लोगों के दुःख और मुसीबतों का क्या वर्णन करूं, मैं स्वयं कुछ दिनों तक अपने घर वालों से नहीं मिल सका, उन तक नहीं जा सका। पिछले साठ, सत्तर वर्ष में ऐसी भयंकर बाढ़ हमारे यहां नहीं आई।

अभी हमारे कम्युनिस्ट मित्र ने जो चीन का उदाहरण दिया तो मैं बतलाऊं कि करीब छः वर्ष हुए कि हमने, जो मौजूदा चीन सरकार है, उसको हमारी सरकार ने सबसे पहले रंकग-नाइज किया और मैं अपने मित्र श्री मुकर्जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि कांग्रेस पार्टी का कोई भी आदमी ऐसा नहीं है जो चीन के प्रति आपसे कम मैत्री का भाव रखता हो। चीन में भी दो करोड़ से ज्यादा आदमी ऐसी बाढ़ से परेशान हैं, अब चीन की सरकार क्या करे.....

**श्री पी० एन० राजभोज** (शोलापुर---रक्षित---अनुसूचित जातियां) : वहां पंडित नेहरू क्यों जाते हैं, उनको नहीं जाना चाहिये।

**श्री ए० पी० सिन्हा:** चीन के प्रधान मंत्री भारत आये थे, हमारे प्रधान मंत्री भी वहां जा रहे हैं। आपको न जाना हो तो न जाइये, आप पर कोई प्रतिबन्ध तो है नहीं। आप तो यहीं पर बस झगड़ा किया करो। हां, तो मैं आपको बतला रहा था कि चीन में भी बाढ़ आ गई, इसलिये यह बाढ़ एक अनहोनी और बहुत एक्स्ट्राआर्डिनेरी तरह की चीज आई, उस बाढ़ के काम में हमारी पांच हजार कीश्तयां लगी हुई हैं, एक हजार अफसर उसमें काम कर रहे हैं और जी जान से इस मुसीबत का सामना कर रहे हैं। अब जो आचार्य कृपलानी और मुकर्जी साहब ने ब्यूरोक्रेसी की बात कही, तो मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि उसमें जितने अफसर काम कर रहे हैं उनमें इस हाउस के किसी मेम्बर से कम फरवर और पैट्रियाटिज्म नहीं है और न मैं ने आई० सी० एस०, आइ० ए० एस, और मैजिस्ट्रेट्स को कभी कभी मौका आने पर खुद अपने हाथों से गेहूं और चावल के बोरे उठाने में मदद करते सुना है और नावों को विशेष परिस्थिति में अपने हाथों से खेते देखा है। ऐसे लोगों के लिये जब आप ऐसे लफ्ज इस्तेमाल करते हैं तो मुझे तकलीफ होती है और मेरी समझ में दूसरे के किये हुए को न मानना, दुनिया में अनग्रेटफुलनेस से कोई

[श्री ए० पी० सिन्हा]

बड़ा पाप नहीं हैं। अभी हमारी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने डेढ़ करोड़ रुपया डिब्रूगढ़ के लिये पिछले साल मंजूर किया ताकि उसको पानी के कटाव से बचाया जा सके लेकिन आप तो हमें फ्रेवेलस कहते हो, तो उस हालत में हम आप के साथ कैसे काम कर सकते हैं, बात यह हैं कि आप गलत दलील देते हो तो हम क्या करें।

श्री के० के० बसु (डायमंड हार्बर): Frivolous पना छोड़ दो तब हम साथ देंगे।

रक्षा संगठन मंत्री (श्री त्यागी): उनका देखने का चश्मा दूसरा हैं।

श्री ए० पी० सिन्हा: हमारे बारे में जैसा चाहें वैसा सोचने का अधिकार हैं लेकिन हम अपने आदर्श और विचारों को उनकी उत्तेजना (प्रोवोकेशन) पर नहीं छोड़ सकते और हम अपनी जगह पर मजबूती से डटे रहेंगे। अब सवाल यह हैं कि इस बाढ़ का प्रकोप जो दैवी आपत्ति हैं--इस पर किसी का वश नहीं, अभी पिछले साल आंध्र में भी बाढ़ आयी तो वहां भी इस प्राबलम को टैकिल करने के लिए बोर्ड बनाया जा सकता हैं और यह काम ऐसा हैं जिसमें गवर्नमेंट और पबलिक दोनों को हाथ बटाने की जरूरत हैं। रिलीफ के बारे में भी मैं आपसे बतलाता हूं कि सेंटर में हमारे रफी साहब ने इस दिशा में बड़ा सराहनीय कार्य किया। हमारे मित्र मुकर्जी, मैं तो उनको अपना मित्र ही कहूंगा, वर्षों हम कांग्रेस सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के मेम्बर रहे, और मैं उनके कंधे से कंधा मिला कर साथ देता था। वह मुझ को अपना मित्र मानें या न मानें, मैं तो उनको अपना मित्र ही मानूंगा। मिस्टर मुकर्जी ने कहा था कि किदवई साहब ने अपर हाउस में कुछ जवाब ऐसे दे दिए जिन पर उनको एतराज हैं। मैं हाउस को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि मैं श्री किदवई के साथ पिछले महीने की पच्चीस तारीख को गया और तीन सितम्बर को उनके साथ लौटा। इतने दिनों में उन्होंने जो काम किए उनको मैं आपके सामने रख सकता हूं। किदवई साहब बिहार गये, वे वहां के चीफ सेक्रेटरी, फूड सेक्रेटरी, मेडिकल आफिसर और मिनिस्टर लोगों से मिले और उन से बातचीत की और उन्होंने उन लोगों से मशविरा करके रिलीफ की स्कीम को इतना सुन्दर बनाया कि मैं तो देख कर दंग रह गया। सेंटर को किन बातों में मदद करनी चाहिये, इसका प्लान बनाया। कुंओं के बारे में यह प्लान किया गया कि दस-पन्द्रह हजार ट्यूब वेल्स लगायें ताकि लोगों को अच्छा पानी मिल सके, इसका प्लान बनाया गया। बंगाल में जाकर किदवई साहब ने डाक्टर विधानचन्द्र राय और वहां के फूड मिनिस्टर और फूड कमिश्नर साहब से बंगाल में रिलीफ मेजर्स के बारे में डिस्कस किया, उन्होंने मुझे भी उस बातचीत और सलाह मशविरे में शामिल किया। यह रफी साहब की कारगुजारी हैं कि डेढ़ घंटे के भीतर वहां की रिलीफ का प्लान तैयार कर लिया गया। आपको मालूम होना चाहिये कि गल्ले को हवाई जहाज से भेजने में एक मन पर साढ़े छै रुपया लगता हैं। हजारों मन गल्ला वहां भेजा गया। उत्तरी बंगाल की सबसे बड़ी मुसीबत में आपको बतलाऊं कि रास्ते और कम्युनिकेशन इतने खराब हो गये हैं कि सिवाय सिर पर या कन्धे पर रिलीफ ले जायी जा सकती हैं, वहां पर मदद पहुंचाना बहुत मुश्किल काम हैं, उसमें हर किसी के सहयोग की जरूरत हैं और सहयोग मिलना चाहिये। वहां लोग बड़ी परेशानी और मुसीबत में हैं और किदवई साहब ने उनसे कहा कि हजारों, लाखों या करोड़ों जितने भी रुपयों की जरूरत हो बंगाल गवर्नमेंट को दिया जाय। उन्होंने आसाम के बैद्यनाथ मुकर्जी से बात की और वहां के लिए भी उन्होंने एक प्लान बनाया। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह हैं कि रफी साहब ने बाढ़ के सम्बन्ध में बहुत ही सराहनीय कार्य किया और अपने दौरे के दिनों में जो कुछ काम किया उसकी सारी रिपोर्ट पंडित जी के पास भेजी और उन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट में जो सुझाव दिये थे और मंजूरी मांगी थी, पंडित जी ने फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर से बातचीत करके मंजूर करवा दी और सब गवर्नमेंटों को उन्होंने कह

दिया कि जितना मुनासिब खर्च तुम्हारा हो, सेंटर उसमें अपना पूरा पार्ट अदा करेगा, सेंटर पूरा खर्च देगा। इसलिये यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि रिलीफ देने में देर की गयी, जितनी तेजी हो सकती थी की गई लेकिन आपको समझना चाहिये कि बाढ़ की समस्या कितनी भीषण और विशाल है और आंख मूंदते यह समस्या हल होने वाली नहीं है। बाढ़ों को रोकने के लिए जो सप्तवर्षीय योजना बनाई गई है, वह स्वागतयोग्य है और इसको नियंत्रण में करने के लिए समय लगेगा ही, जब अमेरीका की मिसीसिपी की बाढ़ अभी तक नहीं रुक सकी है, हालांकि वह दुनिया में डालर बांटता रहता है।

इस लिए हमको विनती के साथ, पूरी जवाबदेही के साथ और जो एक अनहोनी चीज हो गई है उसमें काफी गम्भीरता के साथ मैं कहता हूं कि आपस में मोहब्बत के साथ इस काम को करना चाहिये। इस तरफ से मेरे एक मित्र ने कहा कि हमारे लिये बाढ़ वरदान की बात हुई। मुझे तो इसकी खुशी है कि बिहार और बंगाल वाले आपस में लड़ते थे कि यह टुकड़ा लेंगे या वह टुकड़ा लेंगे, लेकिन आज जब बाढ़ आई हुई है तब हम वह सब भूल गए। मुझे खुशी इस लिए है कि भले ही बाढ़ से हमारे यहां के इतने लोग बरबाद हो गए, लेकिन बंगाल और बिहार के लोगों के टूटे हुए दिल मिल कर एक हो रहे हैं और अभी मिल रहे हैं।

इसलिए हमको सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को, अपनी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को जहां पर एक एक अफसर, एक एक कांग्रेस का कार्यकर्ता और दूसरे सारे कार्यकर्ता इस काम में लगे हुए हैं, बुरा भला नहीं कहना चाहिये। लोग कहते हैं कि हम जनता को सामूहिक-कार्य जोश से करने को प्रेरित करें। लाखों किसान अपने खेतों में फिर से धान का ट्रांस्प्लेंटेशन कर रहे हैं, मास मूवमेंट की तरह से लोग काम कर रहे हैं और दोबारा धान बो रहे हैं। लोग सड़कों पर पड़े हैं लेकिन हिम्मत के साथ हैं। वर्षा होने पर एक बूंद भी इधर उधर न जा कर सब उन्हीं पर पड़ती है, फिर भी आप देखिए कि वह हिम्मत से वहां पर बैठे हुए हैं। उनकी औरतें चक्की चला रही हैं और गाना गा रही हैं। वहां मुसीबत होते हुए भी लोग एक जगह इकट्ठा हो कर बैठते हैं और रोने के बदले खेलते हैं, इसलिए कि उनमें हिम्मत है और साहस है। इसीलिए मैं कह रहा हूं, एक बार शेरपा तेन सिंह ने कहा था कि हमने माउन्ट एवरेस्ट का दमन कर दिया, लेकिन मैं कह रहा हूं कि भले ही माउंट एवरेस्ट का दमन कर दिया गया हो, लेकिन उत्तर भारत में बसने वाले किसान बाढ़ से कितने ही परेशान हों, उनके हृदय को और दिल को नहीं दबाया जा सकता है। उनमें बहुत साहस तथा हिम्मत है। उन्हें हमारी दया नहीं चाहिए। उन्हें जरूरत है हमदर्दी की और सहयोग की तथा सहानुभूति की।

**श्री एस० एन० दास:** सभापति जी, मेरे मित्र श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह ने कहा है कि मैंने गलत-बयानी की है। मैं समझता हूं कि मैंने यह नहीं कहा कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ नहीं किया। मैं ने यह कहा था कि बाढ़ के नियंत्रण और नियमन के लिए जितनी तेजी से कार्रवाई होनी चाहिये उतनी तेजी से न सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने किया और न बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने किया। मेरे मित्र ने गलत समझा है कि मैंने कहा कि उन्होंने कुछ नहीं किया। उन्होंने बहुत कुछ किया है।

**श्री धुलेकर** (जिला झांसी दक्षिण): श्रीमान् जी, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूं कि आपने मुझको यह मौका दिया कि मैं यह बतला सकूं कि आज जो देश में बाढ़ आई है उसने तीन चार सूबों को कितना तबाह कर दिया है, कितनी क्षति हुई है और हम लोगों को उसकी निस्बत क्या करना चाहिये।

पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने जब यह कहा कि हमारे पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को भी यह जान लेना चाहिए कि किस प्रकार से उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी इलाके में, बिहार में, बंगाल में और आसाम में बाढ़ आई है और उससे कितना

[श्री धुलेकर]

नुक्सान हुआ हैं तो हम में से २२ सदस्यों को अपने साथ लेकर के उन्होंने यह मौका दिया कि हम इस चीज को देखें। मैं आप से बतलाना चाहता हूं कि जिस वक्त हमारे झांसी जिले में बाढ़ आई तो हमको यह ताज्जुब हुआ कि झांसी जिला जो कि एक पहाड़ी जिला हैं, उसमें भी बाढ़ से इस प्रकार हानि हो सकती हैं कि जैसा कि हम कभी सोच नहीं सकते थे। मैं आपको एक मिनट में बतलाना चाहता हूं कि झांसी जिले की बाढ़ और दूसरे जिले की बाढ़ों में क्या फर्क हैं जिससे कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब भी जान लें।

झांसी जिले की बाढ़ अब की दफा बड़ी अद्भुत हुई। वह एक पहाड़ी जिला हैं और उस पहाड़ी जिले में कभी ऐसा नहीं सुना गया था कि जो गांव ९००, ९५० फुट की ऊंचाई पर बसे हुए हैं वह भी बह जाएं। यदि आप इस जिले में जा कर देखेंगे तो आप इसको जान पाएंगे। जब मैं किसी आदमी से पूछता हूं कि भाई तुम्हारा मकान कहां था, तो वह कहता हैं कि मेरा मकान वहां था। दूसरे आदमी से पूछता हूं कि तुम्हारा मकान कहां था तो वह कहता हैं कि मेरा मकान यहां था। तीसरे आदमी से पूछता हूं कि तुम्हारा मकान कहां था तो वह कहता हैं वह तीसरी जगह पर था। अब की दफा जो बाढ़ आई हैं उससे हमारे जिले की हालत अजीब सी हो गई हैं। हमारे जिले में जो कि एक पहाड़ी इलाका हैं उसमें गांव ऊपर से नीचे को बसे हुए हैं और जब बाढ़ आई तो उसने तमाम गांव को बहा दिया और नंगा पहाड़ रह गया। पहाड़ तो नंगा जरूर खड़ा हुआ हैं लेकिन जो एक मील की लम्बाई में गांव बसे हुए थे उनका कहीं पता नहीं हैं। कोई नहीं बता सकता कि हमारी जमीन कहां थी या हमारा मकान कहां था। जहां पर उनके मकान थे और जमीन थी वहां पर कहीं पर २० फुट और कहीं पर ४० फुट रेत पड़ी हुई हैं। जहां पर हमारे नदी और नाले थे उन्होंने अपने रास्ते बदल दिए। हमको उसको देख कर बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ था। लेकिन जिस वक्त हम हवाई जहाज से बंगाल के हिस्से में गए तो मुझ से एक पत्रकार ने पूछा कि आपको बाढ़ के सम्बन्ध में क्या कहना हैं। मैंने उनसे पूछा कि "आंखों देखी कहूं या दिल की देखी कहूं।" जो लोग आंखों देखी बात कहते हैं वह मैं समझता हूं कि ठीक नहीं समझते हैं। जो लोग दिल की बात देखने वाले हैं वह अगर आप के बिहार, आपके बंगाल या आपके आसाम को जाकर देखेंगे तो समझेंगे कि जितनी बरबादी वहां पर हुई हैं वह बहुत ज्यादा हैं और उसके लिये हमको जो कुछ करना हैं बहुत तेजी के साथ करना चाहिए। मैंने हवाई जहाज के जरिए से जो दृश्य देखा हैं वह कभी दिखाई नहीं देगा। मैंने करीब २६ फोटो वहां के लिए चार पांच घर हैं, चारों तरफ पानी भरा हुआ हैं, फिर देखता हूं कि पूरा शहर का शहर पानी से चारों तरफ घिरा हुआ हैं। मैंने वहां के फोटो कैमरे से लिए और वाइनाकुलर से भी देखा। उत्तरी बिहार में मैं ने देखा कि छप्परों के ऊपर मनुष्य बैठे हुए थे। आपको सुन कर ताज्जुब होगा कि एक जगह मैंने वाइनाकुलर से देखा कि एक आदमी बाढ़ की वजह से मोटर को एक छप्पर पर चढ़ा कर बैठा हैं। कितने ताज्जुब की बात हैं कि जो जानवर गांवों में दुमंजिले के ऊपर नहीं चढ़ सकते हैं वह वहां टंगे हुए दिखलाई पड़े। दरख्तों के ऊपर जो चारपाइयां थीं बंधी हुई वह तैर रही थीं। गाड़ियां बिल्कुल टूट चुकीं। जहां जहां सड़कें थीं वहां पर पानी भरा हुआ था, जो गलियां थीं उनमें पानी भरा हुआ था। जब मैं पटना गया था और जगहों पर गया तो लोग कहने लगे कि आखिर हम क्या करें ? मैं ने कहा कि आप कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं क्योंकि न तो नाव चल सकती हैं, न डोंगा चल सकता हैं, न मोटर चल सकती हैं, न बैलगाड़ी चल सकती हैं, न तांगा चल सकता हैं और न घोड़ा चल सकता हैं। अगर ऐसे वक्त में कोई यह कहे कि गवर्नमेन्ट

ने कुछ नहीं किया तो बड़ी ताज्जुब की बात है। कुछ मेरे मित्र कहते हैं कि नाव है। मैं कहता हूं कि आधे घुटने के बराबर पानी भरा हुआ है, क्या वहां पर नाव चल सकती है ? एक आध जगह मैं ने देखा वाइनाकुलर से कि एक लकड़ी का डंडा सा पड़ा हुआ है। उस के ऊपर दो चार आदमी बैठे हुए हैं। वह लोग अपने पास कुछ अनाज रक्खे हुए हैं और चले जा रहे हैं। यह तो आप सुन रहे हैं। अगर आप वहां का सीन देखें तो आप का दिल हिल जायेगा। जब मैं आसाम में पहुंचा तो पलाशबाड़ी में जहां पर हमारे रोहिणीकुमार चौधरी साहब भी थे, जमीन इतनी तेजी से कट रही थी कि वहां पर कोई सहायता नहीं पहुंचाई जा सकती थी। डिब्रूगढ़ में हम हवाई जहाज से साढ़े पांच बजे उतरे और सीधे मोटर से गये। आप जानते हैं कि जहां पर पंडित जी जाते हैं वहां पर हजारों आदमी उनके पीछे दौड़ते हैं। तो साढ़े पांच बजे पंडित जी पहुंचे। हम और हजारों आदमी उनके पीछे दौड़ रहे थे। जब हम साढ़े आठ या नौ बजे वापस आये तो हमने देखा कि वहां पर न सड़क थी, न मैदान था और न कोई और चीज थी। वहां पर आसाम के एक मिनिस्टर साहब थे। उनसे मेरी बहस होने लगी। मैं ने उनसे पूछा कि यह पीपल का दरख्त है इसको बहने में कितना समय लगेगा। उन्होंने कहा तीन घंटे का। मैं ने कहा कि श्रीमान जी मैं ने जो दृश्य देखा है उससे तो मालूम होता है कि यह आध घंटे में चला जायगा। और यही हुआ कि जब तक हम मोटर में दूसरी जगह गए तब तक वह नदारद हो गया। हमारी आंखों के सामने पोस्ट आफिस भी बह गया और सरकिट हाउस भी गिर रहा था। आप देखिए कि इतनी बड़ी अंग्रेज फर्म, जेम्स वारेन एंड कम्पनी, जिसके पास सब तरह के साधन हैं, वह भी अपने फर्म को छोड़ कर भाग गए और उनकी लाखों की इमारत गिर गयी।

**एक माननीय सदस्य:** आप अपनी राय तो दीजिये।

**श्री भुलेकर:** मेरे मित्र कहते हैं कि मैं अपनी राय दूं। इस तमाम दृश्य को देखकर मैं ने कुछ नतीजा निकाला है और कुछ बातें सोची हैं जिनको मैं आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर के सामने निवेदन करना चाहता हूं। मैं जानता हूं कि इस मामले में हम साधारण मनुष्यों की राय उतनी नहीं मानी जायगी जितनी इंजीनियर्स की लेकिन ऐसा होता है कि कभी कभी बड़ी बड़ी लड़ाइयों में जो लेमैन होता वह तो जीत जाता है और जो बड़े एक्सपर्ट कमांडर इन चीफ होते हैं वे हार जाते हैं। मैं आपसे यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह जो आपका भूभाग है इसको अगर आप बचाना चाहते हैं तो आपको यह करना चाहिये कि जो आपकी इर्रीगेशन कैनाल्स हैं उनको आप गहरा करवा दीजिये। अभी यह होता है कि ये नहरें १० या १२ फीट गहरी होती हैं और उनके बेड में सीमेंट डाला जाता है। मेरी राय है कि आप अपनी इर्रीगेशन कैनाल्स को गहरी बनावें और इनके अलावा कुछ और नहरें बनावें जिनको मैं ड्रेनेज कैनाल्स कहूंगा। उनका केवल यह काम हो कि वह इन नदियों का ज्यादा पानी निकाल सकें। जहां पर यह निकाली जायं वहां पर यह दस या बारह फुट गहरी हों और जैसे जैसे आगे बढ़ती जाएं इनकी गहराई बढ़ती जाए और चालीस पचास फुट तक हो जाय। अगर आप घाघरा और दूसरी नदियों के साथ ऐसी नहरें बनावें तो मैं समझता हूं कि आपको इनसे और भी लाभ हो सकता है। आप कह सकते हैं कि यह बहुत गहरी होंगी। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आप इनसे कम्युनिकेशन का काम ले सकते हैं और इनसे माल इधर उधर भेज सकते हैं। इस तरह आपको उनसे दो लाभ हो सकते हैं।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि प्रत्येक गांव के पास बड़े बड़े तालाब होने चाहिए ताकि जिस वक्त बाढ़ आवे तो उनमें वह पानी जमा किया जा सके। आज क्या तरीका हो गया है कि आदमी जमीन का एक एक इंच जोत डालता है। यह बात नहीं होनी चाहिये। हर गांव के पास एक या दो अच्छे गहरे तालाब होने चाहिएं। इसी तरह से जितने बड़े शहर हैं उनके पास ऐसे बड़े तालाब होने चाहिए कि जो एक मील लम्बे और एक मील चौड़े हों।

[श्री धुलेकर]

अगर इस तरह के तालाब आपके पास हों तो उससे यह होगा कि जो बाढ़ का पानी आयेगा वह उनमें भर जाएगा। तालाब सबटर्रीनियन चैनल से एक दूसरे से मिल जाते हैं। इस तरह एक तालाब का पानी दूसरे में चला जाएगा। आज यह हालत है कि जितने गांव बसे हैं उनका पानी सिर्फ सतह पर बहता है। जो सबटर्रीनियन चैनल १०० या १५० फुट गहरे में हैं उन तक वह पानी नहीं पहुंचता। इसका कारण यह है कि आपकी सीमेंट की पक्की सड़कें हैं और पक्के मकानात हैं। इसी कारण जो पानी आता है वह जमीन के नीचे नहीं जाता। आप दिल्ली में देखिए या बम्बई में देखिए कि अगर जरा जोर की वर्षा होती है तो सड़कों पर पानी भर जाता है और यह पानी चार चार छः छः फुट तक हो जाता है। इसका भी वही कारण है कि आपकी सीमेंट की सड़कें हैं और पक्के मकानात हैं। तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो चीजें मैं ने आपको बतलाई हैं कि सबटर्रीनियन चैनल्स को मिलाना, नहरों को गहरा करना, गांवों के पास और बड़े शहरों के पास बड़े तालाब बनाना, इनको अगर आप कर लेंगे तो आप फ्लड एरिया वालों की मदद कर सकते हैं। इतना कह कर मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं।

**श्री एस० एन० अग्रवाल** (वर्धा): सभापति जी, यह अच्छा है कि हम आज संसद में बाढ़ के सम्बन्ध में चर्चा कर रहे हैं और कई तरह के सुझाव भी हमारे सामने आ रहे हैं।

मैं भी चार-पांच दिन बिहार के उस हिस्से में घूमा जहां कि लोग बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं। मैं हवा में कम उड़ा लेकिन जमीन पर, पानी में और कीचड़ में भी चला और जितने ज्यादा लोगों से सम्पर्क कर सकता था किया। बहुत से ऐसे गांवों में गया कि जहां शायद सरकारी अफसरों के अलावा और कोई नहीं गया था। मैं ने लोगों के घरों के अन्दर जाकर देखा कि वे किस तरह से रह रहे हैं और इससे उनकी परेशानी का अन्दाज लगाया।

यह दृष्टिकोण रखना कि इस बाढ़ की जिम्मेदारी सिर्फ नन्दा जी की है या भारत सरकार की है और कितना काम हुआ और कितना नहीं हुआ। ठीक नहीं, क्योंकि वहां के लोग भी यह समझते हैं कि यह जो बाढ़ आई है यह ईश्वर का कोप है और यह बाढ़ कुछ बिहार में पानी बरसने से नहीं आई है बल्कि हिमालय में जोर से वर्षा होने के कारण आई है। वहां इतनी ज्यादा वर्षा हुई है कि हाथी तक बह कर आ गए। तो लोगों का कहना यह है और यह मैं शासन तक और भारत सरकार तक पहुंचाना चाहता हूं कि वह यह अच्छी तरह से समझते हैं कि यह बाढ़ कुछ ऐसी नहीं है कि जिसको मनुष्य पूरे तौर से रोक सके और सरकार ने जो उनके लिए काम किया है उसको वे स्वीकार कर रहे हैं। वे बड़ी तकलीफ में हैं। मैं जिन गांवों में गया वहां मैं ने देखा कि लोग बड़े परेशान हैं, उनके पास कपड़ा नहीं है, खास तौर से बहिनों और बच्चों के पास। लेकिन यह सब होते हुए मुझे ताज्जुब हुआ जब कि उन लोगों ने मुझ से कहा कि इस वर्षा के समाप्त होते ही सरकार हमको ऐसी योजना बताए कि जिसको हम शुरू कर सकें। उन्होंने मुझे इत्मीनान दिलाया कि अगर सरकार की कोई योजना हो तो वे उसमें हजारों, लाखों की संख्या में बिना किसी मजदूरी के लग जाएंगे। मुझे खुशी है कि हमारे इंजीनियर्स चीन गए और उन्होंने वहां जाकर देखा। लेकिन मुझे जरा ताज्जुब हुआ कि जो चीज इतनी साफ थी उसको समझने के लिए चीन जाने की क्या जरूरत थी। वहीं गंडक नदी को आप देखें। सन १८४४ में गंडक नदी पर सौ मील लम्बा बांध बनाया गया था। वह अब तक वैसा ही बना हुआ है। शायद उस वक्त कोई इतने होशियार इंजीनियर भी नहीं होंगे लेकिन जनता ने उस बांध को बनाया और वह आज भी काम दे रहा है और वहां बाढ़ नहीं आई। बूढ़ी गंडक में तो बाढ़ आई लेकिन जो गंडक नदी है उसमें बाढ़ नहीं आई। हमारे यहां भी बहुत सी रिवर वैली प्राजेक्ट्स चल रही हैं। मैं दुनियां के बहुत

से मुल्कों में घूमा हूं। मैं ने यूरोप और अमेरीका भी देखा है। मुझे यहां यह देखकर हैरत होती है कि इतने सीमेंट और कंक्रीट की कौन सी जरूरत है। हम तमाम दुनिया से मैशिनरी बुलवाकर जल्दी करना चाहते हैं। लेकिन आज यहां कहा जाता है कि चीन में ८० मील लम्बा बांध सौ दिन में पूरा कर लिया गया। यह हिन्दुस्तान में भी हो सकता है। मैं यह मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूं कि हमारे देश के लोग किसी से कम हैं। वह कोई भी काम कर सकते हैं, बशर्ते कि उनको ठीक से संगठित किया जाय। तो लोगों ने मुझ से यह कहा कि आप हमारे लिए दो बातें करवाइये। एक तो यह हमको भीख लेना अच्छा नहीं लगता। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी सरकार जो कुछ कर रही है वह ठीक है लेकिन हम यह भीख नहीं लेना चाहते। वह चाहते हैं कि उनको कोई काम दिया जाय। वहां खादी का काम हो सकता है, फिशरीज का काम हो सकता है और बहुत से छोटे मोटे काम हो सकते हैं। उनकी झोंपड़ियां टूटी हुई थीं। लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि इन्हीं झोंपड़ियों में रह कर हम काम करेंगे लेकिन ये डोल्स हमको पसन्द नहीं हैं। यह कितनी बड़ी बात है कि आज जिनका सब कुछ चला गया है और जिनके घर में रहने तक को जगह नहीं है, जहां स्त्री पुरुषों के पास पहनने को कपड़ा नहीं है, वह भी भीख मांगने को तैयार नहीं हैं।

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वहां लोगों ने मुझ से पूछा कि हमने सुना है कि कोसी बांध बन रहा है। उनको यह नहीं मालूम है कि क्या क्या काम हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि गवर्नमेंट ने ठीक ही किया होगा। और जो प्लान उन्होंने बनायी होगी वह ठीक ही होगी। उन्होंने हमसे कहा कि आप हमारी बात सरकार तक पहुंचा दें क्योंकि और लोग तो हवाई जहाज से आते हैं और उनसे वे अपनी बात नहीं कह सकते। उन्होंने कहा कि हम यह जानते हैं कि यह काम पांच सात वर्ष में पूरा हो सकेगा और जो योजना बनेगी वह ठीक है। वह जानते हैं कि यह काम बहुत जल्दी नहीं किया जा सकता है। लेकिन वह यह जानना चाहते हैं कि अगली बरसात के पहले पहले गवर्नमेंट इतना इतना काम करना चाहती है। इतना काम जो कुछ हमको बतलायेंगे कि अगली बरसात के पहले इतने इम्बैंकमेंट्स बनाइये या इतने रिजरवायर्स बनेंगे या नदी के जो बेड्स हैं उन नदियों के किनारे यह यह काम होगा, तो उन्होंने कहा कि हम उन कामों में जी जान से मदद देंगे। यह तो "हू एन्ड डाई मिशन" है, जीवन मरण का सवाल है। वह पांच, सात साल की योजना उनके सामने रख दें तो उनको उससे संतोष नहीं होगा। उनको तो यह बतलाया जाय कि अगले साल तक इतना काम हो जाएगा और उसके बाद इतना काम होगा और वह एरिया जहां हमेशा फलड्स आते हैं वह धीरे धीरे कम होगा। यह ठीक है कि वह यह आशा नहीं रखते हैं कि अगले साल तक सब काम पूरा कर देंगे, वह सारा काम तो पूरा नहीं हो सकता है लेकिन अगले साल इतना काम होगा, फौरन जैसे ही पानी बन्द हो, बरसात का पानी चला जाय वहां काम शुरू हो जायगा। तो यह काम करना मैं समझता हूं कि अगर हम उनको एक स्कीम देंगे, प्लान देंगे और बतलाएंगे तो उनको संतोष होगा। वे अपने मन में इस तरह की कोई आशा कदापि नहीं रखते हैं कि भारत सरकार ईश्वर से भी बड़ी है, बिहार सरकार हो अथवा केन्द्रीय सरकार हो, भगवान के कोप के आगे किसी का वश नहीं, दैवी आपत्ति कह कर नहीं आती, लेकिन तो भी मनुष्य की जितनी सामर्थ्य है उससे हिम्मत के साथ उसका मुकाबला करने और लड़ने को तैयार हैं, आपके साथ हिम्मत से काम करने को तैयार हैं और इसलिये उस शक्ति का फायदा हमको जरूर लेना चाहिये।

एक और बात मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि यह ख्याल करना ठीक नहीं है कि सारी जिम्मेदारी मिनिस्टर आफ इरीगेशन एन्ड पावर की है। नन्दा जी बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों का दौरा करने गये, स्थिति का स्वयं मौके पर जाकर अध्ययन किया, वहां लोगों से और अधिकारियों से मिले और बाढ़ के सम्बन्ध में

[श्री एस० एन० अग्रवाल]

और उसको रोकने के उपायों के सम्बन्ध में चर्चा की और बातचीत की और जो दृश्य वहां उन्होंने देखा वह किसी के भी दिल को दहला देने वाला है और जैसा कि उन्होंने ठीक ही कहा है कि इस बाढ़ की समस्या हल करने के लिए हमें वार लेविल पर तैयारी करनी होगी और उसी के अनुसार इसको टैकिल करना होगा, इसके लिये जरूरी है कि पूरी गवर्नमेंट इसको हल करने का प्रयत्न करे और उसको टैकिल करने के लिए एक इंटैगरेटेड प्लान बनाना होगा। उसमें कामर्स एन्ड इंडस्ट्री मिनिस्टर को सोचना होगा कि किस तरह से वहां छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधे कॉटेज इंडस्ट्रीज शुरू करें, लोग वहां बेकार बैठे हैं, उनके पास काम करने को नहीं है, काम करना चाहते हैं, वह कोई आपसे मुफ्त पैसा नहीं मांगते हैं, वहां देखना चाहिये कि क्या क्या इंडस्ट्रीज शुरू की जा सकती हैं । इसी तरह हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्री को समझना चाहिये कि उस हिस्से में जहां हमेशा और बार बार बाढ़ आया करती है वहां फिर मिट्टी के कच्चे मकान बनाने से कोई फायदा नहीं है क्योंकि वह फिर ढह जायेंगे। वहां के ऊंचे हिस्सों पर नई तरह के पक्के मकान बनायें, एक नई तरह की बस्ती बनायें, उनको जरूरी मैटीरियल सुलभ करें ताकि पक्के मकान वहां पर बनाये जा सकें । यह हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्री का काम है कि मकानों के लिये एक इंटिग्रेटेड प्लान बनाये । इस दिशा में कम्युनिटी प्रोजेक्ट्स एंडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को भी कंसेंट्रेटेड एफर्ट करना चाहिये । बजाय इसके कि हम इंडिविजुअली उनको मुफ्त में दें या लोन्स की शक्ल में दें, बेहतर यह होगा कि सारे काम को कम्युनिटी प्राजेक्ट्स एंडमिनिस्ट्रेशन और नेशनल एक्सटेंशन सर्विस को दे देना चाहिये, इस तरह हर एक गांव को टीम आफ वर्कर्स मिल जायेंगे, जो कुछ भी काम वहां करना होगा, उसका एक पूरा प्लान होगा । इसी तरह से और और मिनिस्ट्रीज को भी आपस में मिल कर एक कॉमन इंटिग्रेटेड प्लान बनाना चाहिये और तभी हमें इस काम में सफलता मिल सकती है । यह कोई अकेले फ्लड्स का सवाल नहीं है कि बाढ़ पर काबू पा लिया तो और सब काम हल हो जाएगा। मैं आशा करता हूं कि बहस के दौरान में जो कुछ सुझाव दिये गये हैं उन पर पूरी तौर से विचार किया जायगा और एक वार फुटिंग पर एक इमरजेंसी के ढंग से पूरी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट, बिहार, आसाम और वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट्स मिल कर एक ऐसा प्लान बनायें जो शार्ट टर्म हो और जिस पर फौरन अमल किया जा सके, लॉंग टर्म प्लान भी बनाएं लेकिन इतना लम्बा भी न हो कि उसके पूरा होते होते वह सारा एरिया ही खत्म हो जाय और पानी में चला जाय, अगर इतना लम्बा आप रखते हैं तो मुझे डर है कि आपको सारा उतना एरिया राइट आफ करना होगा फिर प्लान किसका बनाइयेगा ? आप जनता को बतलाइये और उसको कॉनफिडेंस में लीजिए कि इस साल हम यह करने जा रहे हैं और अगले साल हम यह काम करेंगे और मुझे पूरी आशा है कि हमारी जनता उस काम में पूरे तौर से मदद देगी। हमारे मुल्क के लोगों में जो शक्ति है और हिम्मत है वह दुनिया के किसी भी देश से कम नहीं है और इसमें किसी तरह से निराशा का सवाल नहीं है । मुझे पूरा पूरा विश्वास और भरोसा है कि अगर हम ठीक से अपना प्लान और स्कीम बनाएंगे और संगठन करेंगे तो चीन या और जगह जो कुछ प्रयत्न और प्रयास हुए हैं उससे ज्यादा आगे हम अपना काम बढ़ा सकते हैं।

**श्री राम जी वर्मा** (जिला देवरिया पूर्व) : सभापति जी, यह बड़े संतोष की बात है कि मुझे भी बाढ़ पर और उसके भयंकर विनाश पर कुछ कहने का मौका मिला, उस भयंकर विनाश लीला को सोचकर हृदय दहल उठता है लेकिन लाचारी है दैवी प्रकोप के आगे किस का वश है, मनुष्य कर ही क्या सकता है सिवाय इसके कि अपनी शक्ति भर उसको टालने और उसका सामना करने का उपाय करे और हमारे नन्दा साहब ने जो यह कहा कि इस

प्रश्न को वार फुटिंग पर लिया जायगा उससे बड़ा संतोष और उत्साह पैदा होता है। हमारे बिहार के भाइयों ने बताया कि वहां की सरकार अपने वहां की बाढ़ पीड़ित जनता के लिए बहुत कुछ कर रही है। हमें ऐसी बात सुन कर बहुत प्रसन्नता होती है लेकिन अफसोस की बात है कि हम यही बात और यही खुशी अपनी उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार के सम्बन्ध में नहीं जाहिर कर सकते। असल बात यह है कि जैसे हमारे बिहार के साथी कह रहे थे कि ऐसी बाढ़ पिछले साठ, सत्तर वर्षों में कभी नहीं आई, ठीक यही बात हमारे यू० पी० के बाढ़ के लिए कही जा सकती है लेकिन मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि हमारे यू० पी के एक मिनिस्टर साहब का वक्तव्य निकला कि यू० पी को बाढ़ का कोई खतरा नहीं है लेकिन उनको दूसरे ही दिन मालूम हो गया कि हालत क्या हो गयी। खड्डा रेलवे स्टेशन के पास रेलवे लाइन पर गंडक नदी ने अटैक किया और अगर उसने हमला न किया होता तो शायद यू० पी की बाढ़ का कहीं जिक्र भी नहीं आता। यू० पी सरकार उस वक्त तक बेखबर सोती रही जब तक कि खड्डा के पास बड़ी गंडक ने रेलवे लाइन पर हमला नहीं किया। २५-२० साल पहले यही नदी रेलवे ब्रिज को छितौनीघाट और बघहा स्टेशन के बीच तोड़ कर चली गयी और पुल बेकार हो गया। यह तो भगवान की खैर हुई कि उस नदी ने दूसरी धारा नहीं बना ली, यदि यह नई धारा बनती तो मैं समझता हूं कि यू० पी० के सैकड़ों गांव उसके पेट में बह जाते और विलीन हो जाते। यह खतरा यू० पी को है लेकिन यू० पी० की सरकार सो रही है। उसने रिलीफ वर्क भी जो किया उसकी भी यदि मैं चर्चा करूं तो आपको सुन कर ताज्जुब होगा। मैंने बिहार में जो कुछ रिलीफ का काम स्वयं देखा है उससे मैं कह सकता हूं कि वहां वाकई बहुत काम हो रहा है और खाली बात ही नहीं की जा रही है लेकिन मुझे वही बात और वही काम करने का उत्साह अपने प्रान्त में दृष्टिगोचर नहीं होता। मैं आपसे बतलाऊं कि हमारे प्रान्त के पूर्वी जिलों में जो बाढ़ के क्षेत्र कहलाते हैं जहां घाघरा, राप्ती और गंडक आदि नदियों में बाढ़ हर दूसरे तीसरे साल आया करती है और करीब करीब हर साल किसी न किसी नदी में बाढ़ आने के कारण वहां के लोग तकलीफ भोगते हैं। वह बड़ा ही दरिद्र क्षेत्र है और दरिद्रता की बात को लेकर कई सालों से रिलीफ वर्क टेस्ट वर्क सरकार वहां पर कर रही है और गरीबी वहां इस कदर है कि चार, चार, पांच, पांच और छै, छै आने पर वहां पर मजदूर काम करने के लिये मिलते हैं लेकिन दुःख की बात है कि वहां पर ठीक से काम यू० पी० सरकार नहीं करा पाती और मैं समझता हूं कि आवश्यक्ता इस बात की है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार हमारे प्रान्त के बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों की ओर भी ध्यान दे और केन्द्रीय सरकार जिस तरह से इस काम में आगे हाथ बढ़ा रही है यदि इस बाढ़ के काम को अपने हाथ ले ले और एक संगठित योजना के अनुसार कार्य करे तो मैं कहता हूं कि आचार्य जी के शब्दों में कि केवल यू० पी० के पूर्वी जिलों में लाखों की संख्या में काम करने के लिये आपको लेबरर्स मिल जायेंगे। मजदूर मिलेंगे आप का काम करने के लिये। हमारे यहां जब पांच पांच और छः छः आने मजदूरी पर यू० पी० गवर्नमेन्ट सरकारी काम लेती है और पांच पांच हजार आदमी टेस्ट वर्क में काम करते हैं, इतने अर्से के लिए, तो क्या आपके कार्य के लिए लोग नहीं मिलेंगे। आप को लाखों की संख्या में लोग मिलेंगे, आप काम को आगे तो बढ़ायें। लेकिन मैं आप से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जनता के साथ यू० पी० गवर्नमेन्ट की तरह से व्यवहार न किया जाय। आप उन को जरा आदमी समझिये। हम श्रम के सवाल को ले कर, मजदूरी के सवाल को ले कर झगड़ा नहीं उठायेंगे। लेकिन आप उन को आदमी की तरह समझिये। उन के भरण पोषण के लिये कुछ दीजिये और राष्ट्र निर्माण का काम लीजिये। लाखों की संख्या में आप को लोग मिलेंगे। आचार्य अग्रवाल कह रहे थे कि गंडक के दोनों तरफ कुछ वर्ष पहले बांध बना दिया गया है। उस के कारण बिहार को बहुत राहत मिली है, लेकिन बदकिस्मती से वह पुराना बांध वहां

[श्री राम जी वर्मा]

से शुरू हुआ जब वह नदी यू० पी० से आगे बढ़ती हैं । जहां तक गंडक पानी यू० पी० के अन्दर बहता हैं वहां पर कोई बांध नहीं हैं । आज अगर हमारे यू० पी० के जिलों में बाढ़ के कारण कोई तकलीफ हैं तो वह इसी कारण से कि वहां कोई बांध नहीं, कोई योजना नहीं । यही नहीं बल्कि यू० पी० की तरफ से एक बाढ़ सर्वे कमेटी बनी, उस ने रिपोर्ट में इस नदी की बाढ़ का जिक्र तक नहीं किया । मुझे खुशी हैं कि आज केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से नन्दा साहब इस मामले में हाथ बढ़ा रहे हैं । और जिस प्रकार से बिहार सरकार आज कर रही हैं, अर्थात् वह जनता के काम में सहायता कर रही हैं, वैसे ही अगर हमारी यू० पी० की सरकार जागृत होती और जनता की सहायता करती तो हम को आज कोई शिकायत करने का मौका न मिलता, न हम को लड़ाई करने का मौका मिलता, हम यह चाहते हैं कि जो हमारी सरकार हैं उस को हम जगायें और अगर वह जागती हैं तो मुझे विश्वास हैं कि जिस तरह से आप ने वार इमर्जेन्सी की बात की हैं उसी तरह से इस मामले को ले कर चलेंगे भी । इस में पार्टी पालिटिक्स का कोई सवाल नहीं हैं, सभी लोगों का सहयोग आप को मिलेगा ।

मुझे इतना ही निवेदन करना था ।

**Shri L. N. Mishra** (Darbhanga *cum* Bhagalpur): At the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for Irrigation and Power for the statement which he laid on the Table of the House on the 3rd September 1954, which gave not only a picture of the devastations and sufferings caused in the country, by this year's flood but also discusses the genesis of the problem and suggests some remedial measures. I am in full agreement with him specially to the remedial measures he has suggested for immediate, short-term and long-term work, but I would like to say one thing, namely, that there should be seriousness and expedition, and if these two things are there, I am sure our long tale of suffering and devastations will be over.

Secondly, the House is aware of the havoc created by floods in the different States of our country. As a man who belongs to an area which is one of the worst affected areas of Bihar and coming from a village which is still under water for the last forty days, I can say with a sense of responsibility that there are numerous villages in my State which are still marooned and isolated. I have moved about in the area and I have been in the flooded areas for thirty days and I was sorry to see hundreds of people going without meals for days together and those who were fortunate enough to have some grains had no alternative but to take uncooked meals for ten days and twelve days.

In some villages which our party visited, we found that the people did not have facilities to have even lights or anything of the kind of prime necessities of life.

So far as devastation of crops is concerned, I say from my experience of 285 villages of Darbhanga and Saharsa, that I have visited, that our people have lost about 98 per cent. of *Bhadui* crops, 70 per cent. of jute crop and 97 per cent. of paddy. Not only paddy seedlings were washed away but transplanted paddy was damaged not once, not twice but thrice. My apprehension today is that at least in 75 per cent. of the villages of Saharsa and in about 35 per cent. of the villages of Darbhanga, there is no prospect of *rabi* crop also, since the land will have too much of moisture to permit *rabi* cultivation. In a word, the loss is such that people have lost their crop for full one year. There is no prospect for one year. Then the only alternative to keep them going is to provide them with cheap grains. The Minister of Food and Agriculture visited our State. At Muzaffarpur, a demand was made for the sale of

cheap rice and cheap wheat. They demanded that rice should be sold at the rate of Rs. 12 a maund and wheat at Rs. 10 a maund. I would also like to repeat that demand of the people. If the Government is serious to save the people of that area, I will suggest that efforts should be made to open cheap grain-shops in the flood-affected areas to sell rice at the rate of Rs. 12 a maund and wheat at Rs. 10 a maund. Today, rice is sold at Rs. 15 a maund and wheat at Rs. 12 a maund in the government grain-shops. So far as the open market is concerned, rice is sold at Rs. 20 to 21 a maund and wheat at Rs. 15 to 16 a maund. Therefore, I would suggest that if Government are serious to give relief, let them take up this question. Shri S. N. Agarwal was right when he said that our people do not want doles. I have moved amongst the people and from my visits, I have known that the people demand foodgrains at cheap prices and means for employment. The demand of the people, as referred to by Shri S. N. Das, is also for drinking water. My experience is that if you give four things —(1) cheap grain (2) drinking water facilities (3) medical facilities and boats—80 per cent. of the trouble will be over. I will say that if you want to save the people from calamity, please give these things.

Whatever our calamity, might be, I would like to thank the Government of India, and our people are grateful to the Government of India and to the Prime Minister in particular for their sympathies, and help and to the Indian press also, without whose co-operation it would not have been possible for us to send our stories of suffering even to Delhi, not to speak of other foreign countries.

The story of our sufferings cannot be told in words. Therefore, instead of giving the details of the sufferings, I would like to say a few words about the remedial measures so far as three or four districts of Bihar are concerned: the districts of Purnea, Saharsa, Darbhanga and some areas of Monghyr. You are aware that the Kosi scheme was sanctioned in December, 1953. The Minister of Irrigation and Power made a declaration in the House that Kosi scheme will be taken up in right earnest. But I regret to say that in spite of the seriousness that the Government might have, so far as execution work is concerned, there is no perceptible result, no visible result, if I may say so. I admit that the Government of India has worked hard in getting the concurrence of the Government of Nepal and to help the Government of Bihar, but I want to know the reason why so far no Chief Engineer has been appointed. I do not know whether that project belongs to the Government of India or not. If it belongs to the Government of India, I want to know why a Chief Engineer has not been made available so far. I would appeal to the Government, especially to the Minister of Irrigation and Power, to send a Chief Engineer to work out this Kosi scheme. If it is a government project, there is no reason why a special Engineer for that project has not been appointed. Now, leave aside the question of Chief Engineer. There are many preliminary works: the question of land acquisition, the question of road alignment, the question of construction of hutments at the site of work. Nothing has been done in this direction also. I want to know the reason behind this. If the Government of India are so serious, so sympathetic, what is the reason for the work not making headway?

Of late the question of public co-operation has come in. Our Prime Minister and the Minister of Irrigation and Power have stated that an experiment in voluntary labour and people's co-operation would be made in Kosi. Our two eminent engineers, who have visited China, are also of the same opinion. They are too much enthusiastic about people's co-operation. I too had discussion with one of them and I have read the report prepared by them; I am also interested in having people's co-operation and *'shram dan'*. I have appealed for voluntary labour and the

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response was only encouraging but for that we need an atmosphere—a favourable atmosphere. It has got to be created. I appeal to the Government that first an atmosphere should be created which will inspire the workers to organise people and then an atmosphere for people to work be created. In Kosi region in certain areas the population is very thick and it is not at all difficult to get four or five lakhs of people to work on the project every day. People are available there. They have confidence in the Government and in its leadership but that particular atmosphere has to be created and it is the responsibility of the Government to create that atmosphere. I see no reason if people get living wages, amenities of life and atmosphere to work, on the line provided in China, why will they not come with spade in hand and determination in mind to work for their own project.

**Shri Barman** (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): When we are...

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** On a point of order, Sir. When I wanted to speak, your predecessor, Shri Barman, told me that two hon. Members have already spoken from Assam but now two hon. Members from Bengal have already spoken but why is he talking?

**Shri Tyagi:** Because the flood there is greater...

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I want some answer.

**Shri Barman:** I will tell my hon. friend.....

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Speak about floods, not about your hon. friend.

**Shri Barman:** Mr. Chairman, while we are talking about flood ravages, of West Bengal, it is my unfortunate constituency that has been worst hit. This is the only strip of land that is connecting Assam. It is very fortunate that this strip of land has been lakhs of people to work on the project would have been nowhere by this time.

I had seen the pitiable conditions of these flood-stricken people and while I stand to speak a few words on behalf of them I find myself quite helpless in the matter and my words fail to describe what I have seen there. Therefore, I am unable to go into great details especially when there is no time but would like to point out one or two factors which are quite patent. I would invite the attention of the hon. Members of this House to page 3 of the statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Planning Minister. Hon. Members will find that while the area affected in Assam is 12,000 sq. miles in Bihar 10,000 square miles, in Uttar Pradesh 2,260 square miles, it is only 1,000 square miles in West Bengal. As I have said, it is only one constituency that has been affected. But when you compare the damage that has been caused to this small strip of land you will find the intensity of the havoc in that part of our country. The loss of life is the heaviest: 142 in that part of West Bengal whereas in Assam it is 17, in Bihar 42 and in Uttar Pradesh it is 25. This is quite sufficient for anyone to imagine how sudden and strong the floods have been. So many people died in that small strip of India. When you consider the loss of cattle in the four provinces, you will find that it is again the heaviest in that part of West Bengal. From these it is quite evident that though the flood has ravaged vast territories from the eastern border of Assam to the western border of Uttar Pradesh, and Ganges on the south, the intensity of the flood damage has been the heaviest in that small part of West Bengal. Therefrom you can realise that the problem there is much more serious than in any other part of India. I am of course, not talking of Dibrugarh or other towns

Secondly, I would again mention another factor. In the report it has been given that West Bengal has been subjected to three successive floods, first flood, second flood and third flood. I have no time to give you the details which I have got, but I shall simply mention one thing. The first flood came on the 14th June, 1954. The second flood came on the 24th July and continued up to 31st July. The thing that I want to mention is this, that on the 24th July all the communications, the railway communication, the national highway, were torn to pieces, and since that time up till today they have not yet been restored. When I asked the hon. the Railway Minister the other day through a supplementary question as to what probable time the Railways will take in order to restore that line, he said that it is not possible for them to say.

From this hon. Members of the House can imagine what havoc has been caused in that part of India as compared to other parts. I would like to know whether any other part of India has suffered such sort of damage. And this is the only part which connects the Assam region with the rest of India.

In this connection, I shall not relate the harrowing tale of woe of the different parts which have been visited by the floods in the four provinces, but I shall bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Planning and particularly the Railway Minister to consider one thing on which I have been harping on so many occasions. And that is the fate of this railway line, this Assam link. While this link was going to be constructed, I myself with the District Congress President went to the *dak* bungalow to meet the Superintending Engineer about the alignment. We told him repeatedly: do not make this alignment below the foot-hills and in front of the gorges of these hill streams. But all our arguments were of no avail and he said: the Government of India is specially interested in minimising the number of bridges. We suggested—let that alignment be at least twenty miles down the foot-hills. He said that will require more bridges and so it will entail much more cost and there was want of material.

Now I ask the Railway Minister and the Central Cabinet as a whole this question. What is the money that has been spent since that line was constructed up till now, year by year? What is the money? Is it lakhs or crores that will be spent this year to restore that line?—though they cannot say as yet when that line can be restored. In this way lakhs and lakhs of rupees are going to be spent almost every year because of the faulty alignment of that railway line. And the tax-payers have certainly a right to ask whose fault it is. I would still ask the Railway Minister to take steps and consider, when that line is shattered, the bridges have been washed away and it is in a ramshackle condition, when it is still time while again the Government of India has to sanction crores of rupees, whether it will again commit the same mistake or whether it will reconsider the matter even now. I have no time. So I do not like to say anything more. Our Prime Minister has said that this flood is not an unmixed evil. It is certainly a very heartening assurance. It has brought hope and light to the people who are harassed, and who are now absolutely stranded because they have lost all. I would only ask the Central Ministry that till the time these people are rehabilitated, they may be given adequate relief. It is true that after a few years, if there be no further floods, the land will be reclaimed and the people rehabilitated. But, till that time, the people have got to be given relief.

I should finish by saying these few words. I have seen the people in the rural areas who are affected by these floods. They have not lost hearts. I have seen the officers working there and I must say that they are rendering yeoman's service with a national outlook.

**Some Hon. Members** *rose*—

**Mr. Chairman:** I would like to know how much time the hon. Minister is likely to take.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** One word, Sir, about Palasbari.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am only ascertaining time from the hon. Minister.

**Shri Nanda:** Not more than half an hour.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** (Meerut Distt.—South): I want five minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us start with Shri R. K. Chaudhuri. Only five minutes.

**Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** I have received wires from the Scheduled Caste community. They have all been badly affected. I am really very sorry. I must get some chance.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I shall speak about Scheduled Caste people also.

**Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** I am sorry that you should speak and nobody else should speak.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I remind the hon. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri that he has only yesterday moved a resolution with respect to floods in Assam and it will come up for discussion before the House? I do not however want to say that therefore he has no right to speak.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I shall speak only for five minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am only suggesting that he need not take any time now.

**Shri Nanda:** The hon. Member wants only 5 minutes. I can forego five minutes from my quota.

**Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** What about me?

**Mr. Chairman:** I will see. If the hon. Minister foregoes all his time in favour of Members, I shall have no objection.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I only want to say a word about Palasbari in Assam. It is a small town compared with other towns in India. It is in my constituency, the constituency of a very unfortunate Member who rarely gets a chance to speak.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is that correct?

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** What I wanted to say is this. My people there were moved in admiration, not only because the Prime Minister went there, but also 22 Members from different parts of India had felt so much sympathy for that poor town that they visited that town. That town, I think the hon. Minister will agree, can still be saved. The hon. Prime Minister was moved to tears if I can attribute that sort of weakness to him. He said that these unfortunate people must be taken to a safer place. I have also personally spoken to the hon. Minister that if he gives some attention, as he is surely going to give, this town can be saved. It is not merely the small town which will be saved, but the whole of the south bank of Brahmaputra will be saved if he could save Palasbari. There is a national highway. If that road is eroded, the whole of the south bank will be completely in deluge. I want that special attention should be given to that place. As regards Dibrugarh, my hon. friend Shri Debeswar Sarmah and others have already spoken. Only I want the House to remember that we are suddenly subjected to floods and earthquakes. Only recently, in 1950, the great earthquake took place—previously also in 1931, and in 1897. Constantly, we are having earthquakes. And the report itself says—the hon. Minister's brochure says—that there were four heavy floods altogether.

Sir, it is true that the danger to us has been very grave, but the sympathy and succour which has been shown by the Central Government is also marvellous and profuse, and I was really touched by that, and we are very grateful. I would ask also

that the Geological Survey should begin, as soon as possible, to find out the cause of these frequent earthquakes.

I have only one request to make. A previous enquiry was made, and Rs. 7 crores was to have been set apart for Dibrugarh this year, but only Rs. 7 lakhs has been spent. I would particularly request the hon. Minister to tour at least for fifteen days continuously in the month of November, and in that case he would be able to save Assam, and next year we shall have a different account to give. We ought to see that the money spent is well spent, and he should go there personally and the whole province should be saved. We shall have a better report of the situation there if only he would be pleased to spend a fortnight there. That is all I have to say.

**Shri Nanda:** I am deeply grateful to all sections of the House.....

**Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** Not all sections.

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, I am deeply grateful to all sections of the House for the unstinted support that they have given to the programme that has been offered. It is very clear that Parliament, that this House, is solidly behind any programme, effective programme, promptly executed to tackle this problem of floods. There was very little of a contentious nature which I might be called upon to reply, excepting respect of the arrangements for relief.

I have, in the course of my visits to these places, endeavoured to acquaint myself.....(*Interruptions*). I have been to other places by road.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal** .(Bilaspur): By other transport.

**Shri Nanda:** The question is, I have discussed with those concerned, and I have had a look at their arrangements, and I have studied their reports, and I have met people who were affected, and my impression is, my conclusion is, that although it may not be possible to say that every place, every remote village, every person affected has had all the attention—in a case like this where a calamity of such proportions overtakes a State for which there was very little warning, a sudden event of this kind—considering all that, the way in which the relief work was organised and in which the administration was mobilised, I think, is something remarkable. I am talking of Bihar where I had very lengthy discussions about this. I am also talking of the other States. Maybe, they may have taken some time in putting things in proper gear. It will not be really fair on the part of those who have tried to belittle this work. Not, of course—I repeat again—that omissions may not have been there. There have been. But they have to be judged in the light of the cricumstances.

In connection with relief, I may add this. Acharya Kripalani said that the State has been doing everything, and the initiative of the people was not in evidence. There is an explanation for that. Previously, the Government bestirred itself little and late and the people had to depend upon themselves very much. So, they acted promptly to their best capacity. It may be that there is a kind of a feeling that the state is there to look after them, and the state also is very much keener and very much more earnest to do its part. So, all the machinery of the state was put into motion. That should not mean that the people have no place in this work. If enough of that kind of co-operation—it is not a question of co-operation—it is of enlistment—has not happened, I think that deficiency ought to be made up. There, the question of parties does not arise. Those who now say that the people have not been called upon, and that the people have not been given opportunities may consider how much they were willing, ready and capable of doing.

Regarding relief, I believe that the arrangements should be standing arrangements. The floods may not be there in a particular year, but the organisation should remain intact, to deal

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with relief, in any possible occurrence of a flood later. The number of boats that are required should be there, as also other arrangements. They should be there ready to be mobilised when they are required. This, I hope will be done in the future. The system of flood warnings, and flood forecasting has to be developed more than it has been done I hope this will be done, and proper guidance and directions will be given to the people so that they may move to places on higher ground, and shift immediately in an organised manner under proper direction, when an occasion comes, which we hope will not come often, and which we hope will be nearly eliminated by the things that we propose to do. That is about relief.

I was more concerned with some of the criticisms about our approach to the problem and the spirit in which we are going to deal with this matter. The word 'war-footing' was used again and again. We were also told, 'Look at your record, what have you done in the previous years. In the face of that, do you expect us to believe that things will be very different in the future.' My answer is that so far as the recent past for which we are responsible is concerned,—the record has not been bad.

There was a reference to the Five Year Plan, and it was said that the Plan did not make any direct provision for floods. True, but it devoted as large a proportion of the funds available as possible for projects which have a very decisive influence on floods, at least in the case of the big projects. I hope hon. Members will refer to paragraph 26 on page 10 of the statement that I laid on the Table of the House. There, I have listed a number of projects which have been undertaken, which are being proceeded with, and which are going to minimise and reduce the flood risks in all those areas.

Regarding data, I myself had admitted this fact that in respect of the collection of data. we have not been so alive to it, as we should have been. During the last two years, the Planning Commission took this view that data should be collected by the States.

Well, it may possibly be that . that view did not take sufficiently into account the fact that the States were not adequately organised for the purpose. The data collection work in the States has not gone ahead as well as it should have, and now arrangements are being made to make up that deficiency. But, again, in the matter of data, it is not that nothing has been done during these two years. Considerable work has been attempted and achieved.

In the same context, the question of delays in regard to the Kosi cropped up again and again. I wonder how this question of delay is at all applicable in regard to Kosi. When was it that we decided to finalise it? It is not that between now and then nothing has been done. I do not want to take up the time of the House in detailing all the steps that have been taken. You cannot start the Kosi project at once, and expect to see that a dam is rearing its ahead before you. Preliminary work has to be done, materials have to be collected and organisation has to be developed; there should be roads, houses etc. I am quite satisfied that the Bihar Government has been pursuing this matter keenly.

Regarding the question of a Chief Engineer, well, it may be that there is so much delay and we are to blame; but if we choose a wrong kind of man, we would be held much more to blame. I can tell hon. Members that a suitable Chief Engineer has been found and he will be in position very soon. Regarding the Kosi, there has been no delay at all. We took some years in evolving a proper project. Several alternatives were tested and explored. The hon. Member, Mr. Gadgil, mentioned that. He possibly lost sight of the fact that that project which was then in

view was at a place called Bara Kshetra where earthquake risks were anticipated, but there is going to be no huge dam now. It is a much simpler construction that we have got in view—a simple barrage, and embankments. This is the project. I am sure this is going to be carried out according to schedule—and much earlier than that if all the promises of public co-operation materialise.

Regarding the future use of the masses and less use of machinery, we are not going, as I said, to delay anything due to non-arrival of machinery. Whatever can be done by manual labour should be done by manual labour. But machines also help and I am not going to rule out machinery. If we can proceed with the help of machinery more quickly, if we can expedite and accomplish a protective measure, say, within three years with the help of some machinery which can be easily secured, and if otherwise it takes two years longer, I will say 'No, I am not going to take any such risks; I will have that machinery also'. If we can do without it and our people can help us to carry out and accomplish the task, well and good.

On the question as to how many years it will take, on the one side we are being told 'Six or seven years is too long; how long can we wait?' and on the other side, the hon. Member, Mr. Gadgil, says: 'You are too optimis tic'. Sir, I am not going to be either optimistic or pessimistic; I am going to be realistic. I want the engineers to give me a proper schedule. There is no question of sentiment here. What is the proper schedule? It is in terms of their materials, their man-power, their technical personnel and all that. Let there be a schedule; that schedule would be related to certain circumstances. If they can say "Well, in these circumstances, seven years; but assuming that more people can be brought to collaborate six years". I will ask the engineers to look into it again and if they think that the advice has to be modified, I will come to the House and put the matter before it again. I am told it can be done in seven years and I maintain that position. We will have to see that we do it.

One point more about the approach —whether any suggestions have emerged as to the approach that we are to adopt in the solution of this problem.

The suggestion was made about a co-ordinated and integrated programme. That has always been in our mind and that is why a Central Board is formed. We are thinking of co-ordinating the work in the different States—co-ordination in the matter of collection of data, co-ordination in the matter of preparing a programme, and in execution and maintenance later on. All that has to be done and the precise form of that machinery has to be settled. When, on the 15th of this month, the Chief Ministers of these States come and we have a meeting here, we will look into all that. There will definitely be an organisation for the system of rivers that we call the Ganga. There will be some organisation for Brahmaputra. What their exact functions will be, we are going to consider and decide Integration is necessary and we cannot deal with one river independently of what its tributaries or another river by its side does or might do. It has to be an integrated programme and the co-ordination has to extend further—between States, of course but to several countries also. The problem of floods is not restricted to India. It affects and it has taken a heavy toll of life in the neighbouring countries,—Nepal etc. It is their problem also and mutually we can help to solve that problem more effectively,—in the matter of collection of data certainly and in other ways also. We shall explore all those ways.

Co-ordination has also to be at another level, as was pointed out; between the Ministries. I must say frankly that unless the whole Government acts as one well-knit body, this cannot be done. If the Railways have to be called upon to supply more wagons in Dibrugarh, we can expect that

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it will be done on the assumption that the priority of saving Dibrugarh is accepted. So far as the States are concerned, this priority will have another meaning. They will have to see that if they attach the highest priority to floods it may mean that something else has to be postponed. They cannot think of having this, that and a hundred things and yet say that floods will have the first priority. Personnel will have to be mobilised for floods. This is the implication of that. So far as we are concerned, we are going to develop to the utmost extent this co-ordination between the departments and the states concerned.

I have got two or three minutes and I would like to mention that most vital question of public co-operation. The attitude of the bureaucracy was mentioned. Now, let us not talk of bureaucracy as very different from the people. They are our people. Can we go on abusing them and suspecting them and still expect that all this work will be done? These engineers and these officers have to do the work and they have to render an account of themselves. The people and the officials, both have to do that.

I may add that we need not sacrifice our democratic principles to do all this. In a democracy, we may contend here on issues and fight over questions on which we differ and disagree. But, let there be in the country a national platform on which all can agree, on which distinctions of political parties should not operate. If we do not import any political bias and political considerations and come together and help and if all parties unite in such work in democracy we can achieve better results than can be achieved otherwise.

**Shri S. S. More:** What have you done to secure the support of the other parties?

**Shri Nanda:** The question that I was dealing with was that in a real democracy it would be possible for us to enthuse the people and take from them all the work that is necessary for accomplishing these big tasks, and for that purpose, it is not necessary—I am sorry to differ from Mr. Gadgil on this—that there should be no fair wage clauses for workers. If we employ workers, we must pay them fairly.

**Shri Gadgil:** What I said was that if this problem is to be tackled in the spirit of war, then a war atmosphere must be created.

**Shri S. S. More:** It will be a fighting atmosphere and then it is only a war against us and not against the floods.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** Would the hon. Minister like to introduce a Bill on the basis of the C.C. Act of 1933 in the U.S.A. to mobilise the youth?

**Shri Nanda:** I was coming to that. Regarding the technique of mobilisation and of organisation, I have not got any cut-and-dried formula. The moment we accept the need for it, we can all put our heads together and evolve a formula or a pattern which will suit the conditions of this country, and it is quite possible to do that. As long as our minds are clear and there is honesty of purpose, it can be done, and I believe that so far as the Government is concerned, there will be no lack of readiness to co-operate, to offer all facilities and to do everything that is possible in order to facilitate that public co-operation from all sections of the community and all political parties. In this matter there is something which is of very great importance. We are told that our people are not doing what is being done in other countries. Are our people in any way in quality inferior to other people? They are not.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is the hon. Minister likely to take some more time?

**Shri Nanda:** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think we are sitting from eleven to six.....

**Shri S. S. More:** Under the Rules, may I bring to your notice that when

a debate is concluded on any particular motion and particularly by the reply of the mover, there is no other option for the Chair but to put it forthwith to the vote of the House.

**Mr. Chairman:** Which is the rule?

**Shri S. S. More:** Please read rule 330. Because we know the difficulties of the Government and we have our sympathy for them, may I refer you to article 368 of the Constitution? There is provision for the postponement of a discussion, but there is no rule for the postponement of voting, and according to rule 330, the moment a particular discussion has been concluded, there is no option for the Chair but to put it forthwith to the vote of the House. I am referring particularly to sub-clause (2) of rule 330.

6 P.M.

**Shri Raghavachari** (Penukonda): May I also invite your attention to rule 38? Under rule 38, as the Business Advisory Committee had allotted a particular time, and under that rule, it would not be open, even to the Speaker, to extend the time. He shall put the question at the end of the allotted time. Rule 39 also applies here.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us see to the rules. Let us not lose time.

**Shri S. S. More:** We are not losing time. You have given us a patient hearing.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am giving a ruling.

**Shri S. S. More:** My submission is that if you appreciate the words of the Speaker.....

**Mr. Chairman:** I remember that. What is the rule that you were referring to—about taking up the question on Monday?

**Shri S. S. More:** It is rule 330 (2):

> "At the appointed hour, in accordance with the time-limit fixed for the completion of a particular stage of a Bill or a motion, the Speaker shall, unless the debate is sooner concluded,"—

Here, you have to refer to rule 326 which says that the debate is to be concluded by the mover's reply. Now, to continue rule 330 (2):

> "forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with that stage of the Bill or the motion."

Now, in this particular case, a period has been fixed.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Gurgaon): These procedural rules can be suspended at convenience and at the same time you have to see whether this particular rule cannot be suspended. If this rule can be suspended, this business can naturally be suspended.

**Shri Gadgil:** It is such a complicated question.

**Shri S. S. More:** It is a very complicated question. I accept the proposition of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that the rules can be suspended. But let there be a motion to that effect. No rule can be suspended without a motion. I am prepared to accept that suspension of the rule. I would like to make an earnest appeal to you. Rule 368 is there. All the rules of procedure are controlled by rule 368 and also by rule 166. A special procedure has been laid down by the Speaker, in his own wisdom, for the passing of amendments to the Constitution under article 368.

These rules, altogether, have to be considered.

**Mr. Chairman:** Rule 368 is a different matter altogether.

**Shri Venkataraman** (Tanjore): On a point of order.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let me hear that point of order.

**Shri S. S. More:** There are rules here. I think that point of order is out of order.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is not for you to decide that.

**Shri S. S. More:** I am making a submission to you: when the Chair is applying its mind to one point of order, no Member can raise another point of order. That is running after a butterfly!

**Shri Gadgil:** It is such a complicated matter, and therefore, I request the Chair to postpone its ruling to Monday.

**Mr. Chairman:** There is no need to be impatient or be excited. I do not understand why Members should be so. I am quite calm and quiet. I am prepared to hear everything. Let me understand what the thing is.

**Shri Venkataraman:** My point of order is this. The Speaker has fixed 6 o'clock as the concluding time for today's session. It is already past six, and therefore the House must stand adjourned. Any point can be considered only afterwards.

**Shri Raghuramaiah** (Tenali): Mr. Chairman, I have got one point. It was decided this morning that the voting would be taken up after the conclusion of the debate on the flood situation.....

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** I would like to know whether it is not a fact. The debate on the flood situation is not over...(*Interruptions*)

**Mr. Chairman:** So far as this rule, namely rule 330, is concerned, I would request every hon. Member to apply his mind. I would appeal to Mr. More also to read it very calmly. Rule 330(1) says that whenever the debate on any motion in connection with a Bill or on any other motion becomes unduly protracted the Speaker may, after taking the sense of the House, fix a time-limit for the conclusion of discussion on any stage or all stages of the Bill or the motion as the case may be. What sub-rule (1) contemplates is that whenever, in the opinion of the Speaker, the debate becomes protracted, he fixes a time-limit and then follows sub-rule (2) which says that at the appointed hour in accordance with the time-limit fixed.....etc. etc. (*Interruptions*). I do not think there is any substance in the point of order raised. It is no use importing into this discussion things which are not relevant. (*Interruptions*). Please hear what I say patiently just as I heard hon. Members patiently. There was no action taken under rule 330. What happened was this. After certain hours of discussion, 6 o'clock was fixed for voting. But the discussion did not conclude. The worst floods have occurred in our country. I find that not only one section of the House but all sections of the House were very anxious to take part and explain their grievances. Hence the debate could not conclude today. The only and simple question is whether we should now adjourn or we should finish this business on Monday...(*Interruptions*). There is no rule that I cannot adjourn the House. (*Interruptions*) Rule 330 is quite clear.

**Shri S. S. More** *rose*—

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** No point of order can be raised on the ruling of the Chair (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us be calm. I shall not hear the same point of order again.

**Shri S. S. More:** I accept your ruling on rule 330. I am trying to bring another point to your notice; you will have to look into that. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, order. Let there be no exchange.....

**Shri Raghavachari:** Mr. Chairman, I have been submitting that rule 38 is imperative and the procedure should be that the matter must now be put to the vote. The question must now be put...

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I now raise another point of order?.....

**Shri Raghavachari:** Let me explain my position. You will see that the Business Advisory Committee fixed four hours and the same was also approved by the House; and in pursuance of the time-limit fixed by the Business Advisory Committee the discussion on the matter was declared by the Chair

to close at 1-55 P.M. But because that hour happened to be lunch time when, under the new convention which we are anxious to create, no voting should take place, the Speaker fixed that the voting shall take place at 6 o'clock, i.e., 6 P.M.

I shall now read rule 38. The rule says:

> "At the appointed hour in accordance with the Allocation of Time Order, for the completion of a particular stage of a Bill, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question".

And then you will see that even under rule 39 the time can only be extended under certain circumstances. The rule says:

> "No variation in the Allocation of Time Order shall be made except on the request of the Leader of the House who shall notify orally to the House that there was general agreement for such variation etc."

There was no such agreement. So the matter must end at the allotted time.

**Shri S. S. More:** A motion was passed yesterday by which the report of the Business Advisory Committee has been converted into an Allocation Order. And that Order is printed in the Parliamentary Bulletin dated September 10, 1954. Referring to the Constitution (Third Amendment) Bill it says: the allocation of time will be four hours for the first stage. So these four hours expired at 2 o'cock. (*An hon. Member*: At 1-55). I accept, to be exact to the minute, that the first stage terminated, or the four hours terminated at 1-55. And we accepted the word of the Speaker that during this period, when people are likely to go to lunch, the House should not be counted out. Therefore, by way of convenience, he suggested that the debate shall be concluded at the end of four hours but the voting shall take place at 6 o'clock.

If that is the Allocation Order, there is no one who can change it under rule 38.

**An Hon. Member:** But it is 6-15 now.

**Shri S. S. More:** So no voting at all!

**Mr. Chairman:** Rule 38, I am afraid, could have been applied, and ought to have been applied at 1-55 as argued by Mr. More. (*Interruption*). Just wait. The rule says that at the appointed hour in accordance with the Allocation of Time Order, for the completion of a particular stage of a Bill, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question. But at the suggestion of the Speaker the House accepted that the voting should not take place at that time. That does not apply to what I am doing now, to what was adjourned to a later hour with the consent of the House. Probably there would have been some justification for the point at that time, but having once agreed I do not think there is any justification now.

I will read from the Proceedings. This is what the Speaker said:

> "The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari etc. There are also some amendments. They are also under consideration. In this connection, the hon. Members know the procedure as laid down in our rules about considering any motion or any Bill for amendment of the Constitution..."

> "The discussion, as settled by the Business Advisory Committee, will continue till 1-55—up to 1-55 P.M. Referring to the convention which I stated the other day, it being interval for lunch, we shall not have voting at that time. The voting will have to be by a division in the lobbies. The voting will take place after the flood debate is over."

Probably, I think the misunderstanding arose from the fact that, as a matter of fact, we expected that the flood

[Mr. Chairman]

debate will be over by six o'clock. Unfortunately, that debate could not be concluded on account of the importance of the great subject...(*Intrruptions*)... I think there is no point of order. The House now stands adjourned till 11 o'clock on Monday.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 13th September, 1954.*